

Review

A fiddler's fiddler . . .



Isaac Stern is the "godfather" behind Nigel Kennedy and many of the other stars who have restored the violin to pre-eminence in classical music

Just a moment with Louise

A moment is a rally driver's euphemism for one of life's little incidents, such as a 100 mph crash. Brian James met Louise Aitken-Walker, the world champion woman driver

WEEKEND LIVING

Old master of fortune?

John Harrington bought a painting for \$300 in 1961 having been "psychically directed" to an auction room. Now his claims that it is a Giorgione worth tens of millions of pounds are being taken seriously

SPORT

Will Taylor drop Gascoigne?



David Miller believes that England may leave out Paul Gascoigne (above), for the crucial European championship match against Ireland

WEEKEND MONEY

The charitable treasure hunt

An astonishing £30 million has been found in unused charitable trusts. Is there more where that came from?



Know the ropes on the slopes

A 16-page colour guide to the best winter sports comes free with *The Times* today

TIMES

Scooting off to school

Our magazine for young readers offers the chance to win one of 20 scooters, a hot little number from California

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Tory gloom after by-election defeats

Heseltine steps up challenge to silent Thatcher

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine resumed his onslaught on the prime minister's attitude towards Europe yesterday, while his supporters stepped up the pressure on him to challenge her for the Conservative party leadership.

He said that people tended to misrepresent the role and motivations of Europe when they talked of federalism. Nobody seriously expected the creation of a federal Europe in which the member states surrendered their sovereignty to a common government. Only "a handful of people" thought such a thing conceivable.

Mr Heseltine's thinly-veiled attack on Margaret Thatcher's approach in a speech to

businessmen in Thame, Oxfordshire, came as two senior members of his Henley constituency party urged him to take her on for the leadership. His supporters will spend the weekend weighing up his chances of mounting a successful challenge after the gloomy by-election results on Merseyside and in West Yorkshire. Some believe that he is in his strongest position to wrest the leadership from the prime minister, but others fear that any challenge would be doomed to failure and that by coming forward now he would consign himself forever to the backbenches.

Mrs Thatcher, meanwhile, will spend the weekend at Downing Street working on her speech at the Lord Mayor of London's banquet on Monday when she is likely to

restate the government's attitude towards future developments in Europe.

The prime minister made no comment yesterday on the Conservatives' poor by-election results, although she discussed them on the telephone with the party chairman, Kenneth Baker. The Conservative candidate in Bradford North was pushed into third place by the Liberal Democrats as Labour increased its majority to 9,514. In Bootle, the Conservative held on to second place in a seat Labour won with a majority of 19,465.

Neil Kinnock hailed the Labour victories as giving the Tories "notice to quit", but Conservatives had been resigned to poor results and the voting figures had little of the political shock caused by the loss of Eastbourne last month.

Mr Baker said: "They are protest votes, certainly mid-term votes. Out there we are not very popular at the moment." The prime minister remained an asset to the party as she was a strong and determined leader, he said. A leadership contest would be unnecessary and was not wanted by the overwhelming majority of the party.

Cranley Onslow, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, said: "This isn't some golf club where you can have a contest and it does not matter. This is really a very important matter and it has to be taken seriously and people have to make serious decisions. This is not the time to fool around with the luxury of dissent."

But Derek Sawbridge, the Henley party vice-chairman, joined the local mayoralty: David Nimmo Smith, in calling for Mr Heseltine to stand. Mr Sawbridge said: "I'd like to see it come to a leadership issue and I'd like him to win. He has more sense than the rest of the cabinet put together." Mr Nimmo Smith said: "I wish he would come out publicly and stand against her. That would clear it up once and for all."

Tony Marlow, the MP for Northampton North, thought the by-election results would make MPs with marginal seats feel more inclined to consider a change of leader to counter a growing animosity in the country to Mrs Thatcher.

Meanwhile, Sir Geoffrey Howe is working on a speech that he will deliver next week, explaining the reasons for his resignation, but his friends insisted again yesterday that he did not intend to stand against Mrs Thatcher.

"The arguments about accession in the early 1970s have no place in the 1990s," it said. "The current debate should be conducted in the

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Polls on "hard eco", page 34

The committee, which discussed EMU with Mr Hurd, Michael Heseltine and other British politicians, EC commissioners, MEPs, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, Herr Pöhl and businessman, called for Britain to exert more influence in the European debate by signing up wholeheartedly to the Community's agreed objectives.

"The arguments about accession in the early 1970s have no place in the 1990s," it said. "The current debate should be conducted in the

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Tory post-mortem, page 7

MPs at risk, page 7

John Currie, page 12

Peers support a single currency

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

A SENIOR group of peers yesterday threw their weight behind plans for a single European currency, controlled by an EC central bank.

The Lords committee on economic and monetary union (EMU), comprising mainly Conservative and independent peers, dismissed the prime minister's case for protecting Britain's sovereignty. It said that Britain must abandon the rhetoric of the battlefield in next month's inter-governmental conference in Rome to decide the next steps towards EMU and political union.

The committee's chairman is Lord Aldington, a former Conservative trade secretary. Its members include two former governors of the Bank of England, Lord O'Brien of Loughborough and Lord Crampton, and Lord Carr of Hadley, a Conservative home secretary.

The committee told the government that Britain must not again face the threat of being regulated to a second tier within the Community. A single European currency, it argues, would bring economic benefits, cut costs, create a true single market, and strengthen Europe's voice in the world. The committee also disagreed with the prime minister that a single currency would harm British sovereignty.

Mrs Thatcher's position was also undermined by Herr Otto Pöhl, the president of the

Continued on page 26, col 1

Polls on "hard eco", page 34

'No poll tax' for Gulf forces

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the armed forces serving in the Gulf should be exempted from paying the poll tax, the government said yesterday.

New guidelines issued by the environment department called on local authorities to give special treatment to servicemen with the British forces in the Gulf. The circular also urged councils not to levy the so-called standard community charge, which is double the personal rate, on the empty homes of civilians held hostage in Iraq and Kuwait.

Under current rules single servicemen who normally live in barracks are required to

home before seeking to enforce any outstanding bills.

The blanket exemption from the poll tax will apply only to service personnel. Civilians will be offered immunity from the standard charges only.

Announcing the changes

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said: "This means that no service man posted abroad can be worse off, while some will gain."

■ A bill will be published on Monday which will exempt owners of holiday caravans from paying the standard community charge on their weekend retreats.

Rural Ireland grudgingly toasts its First Lady

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND yesterday formally elected Mary Robinson to be its first woman president, bringing congratulations from many but a certain amount of whimsical comment from rural bars, where female emancipation is not high on the list of priorities.

In the tiny hamlet of Ardagh, Co Meath, talk in Bennett's Bar was about stags and specifically about the one that got away in yesterday afternoon's hunt. To some, like Dessie Andrew, aged 31, the landlord, proudly wearing an Ireland World Cup jumper, Mrs Robinson just did not look right as president.

He was singing "Here's to you Mrs Robinson" between every pint he pulled, but he could not conceal his instinctive difficulty coming to terms

with a woman holding Ireland's highest elective office. "I don't know," he said, struggling to articulate what many outside Ireland have said until this week were views which characterise the vast majority of men and women in rural areas of the country. "It's something in my head – it's just in my blood. I think the president should be a man and I don't agree with her views on abortion and homosexuality."

With a little prompting, he elaborated: "I'd just sooner she wasn't there. I mean, if you look at the television and you see the president coming out, you expect it to be a man with his wife sitting beside him – with a woman it leaves me thinking or I'd be getting a divorce and I don't want a divorce, Mrs Robinson or not."

Those who would agree with him, and there were women among them in Bennett's, bear the new president no ill-will and appear happy to accept Mrs Robinson's democratic mandate.

Brian Beglan, who owns a clothing manufacturing business, was supervising a friend riding his horse, Big



My lips are sealed: Heseltine received his attack on the prime minister at a chamber of commerce lunch yesterday, but remained silent on a leadership challenge

Bill aims to create 'fairer' sentences

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to make it easier for child abusers to be prosecuted were unveiled by the government yesterday, as part of a bill designed to improve the consistency and fairness of sentencing.

To the surprise of lawyers and judges, the bill contains almost all the recommendations of the 1989 Pigot review of the evidential rules governing child abuse cases. Ministers propose to scrap the "competence rules" which bar many children from giving evidence in such cases, and to allow courts to use routinely video-recorded evidence from child victims.

These measures, however, failed to prevent the bill receiving a more hostile reception than ministers had hoped. Opposition MPs, probation officers and penal reformers praised the emphasis that the bill placed on community penalties for non-violent offenders, but predicted that the proposals would, at best, only marginally reduce the jail population.

The Home Office hopes to reduce the number of thieves and burglars who are jailed by establishing new statutory sentencing guidelines, creating a broader range of community penalties and pressing courts to pay less attention to previous criminal records when sentencing.

Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, said that the government's new-found disengagement with jail as a punishment for most offenders was to be welcomed, but added that a big fall in the jail population would only be realised if ministers set up a sentencing council to ensure that courts heeded the guidelines.

The bill failed to address the "scandal" of the large numbers of people held on remand in jail, often in appalling conditions, and the problem of reduced public confidence in the police and the legal system. He called for a strengthening of the Bail Act and the creation of a special tribunal to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice.

Mr Baker said he and Mrs Thatcher had spent much of their time discussing how best to "preserve and move forward the unprecedented international consensus". However, it is likely that they considered at what point the allied forces would be ready to undertake an offensive.

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Baker reassured of allies' readiness to go to war

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, appeared last night to have settled doubts about the willingness of the Western and Arab allies to use force if necessary to liberate Kuwait.

As he flew from London to Paris on the last leg of a tour of the Middle East and Europe, it became clear that while Moscow continued to call for a peaceful solution, it would not obstruct the allies if they decided to use force. Officials travelling with Mr Baker said that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab forces, would fight alongside American and Western troops if it came to war.

Donuts continued over the attitudes of Syria and France, although both have forces in the area. Mr Baker was expected to try to clarify the French view while in Paris before flying back to Washington today. He is likely to tell President Bush that the alliance can be considered reliable.

Margaret Thatcher again strongly reaffirmed Britain's readiness to join its allies in the use of force if necessary.

Speaking outside Downing

Street after talks with Mr Baker, she said: "Obviously we stand absolutely together in supporting the great international coalition that has been built up to see that aggression does not and cannot and will not pay.

The peaceful solution would be for Iraq to get out of Kuwait, that is a matter for them, we hope they will do it, if not we shall have to take the military option and see that Iraq does leave Kuwait."

Her emphasis was more belligerent in tone than Mr Baker's, and contrasted sharply with President Gorbachev who had held talks with Mr Baker in Moscow on Thursday, before flying to Bonn yesterday on his first visit to the reunited Germany. Before meeting Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, she said there was no split between America and the Soviet Union. "We are all thinking of the same thing. We must do all we can to avoid a military solution. We are right to determine to resolve it in this way, but anyone who hopes to split us from the United States, to drive a wedge in our

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Continued on page 26

BP says it lost 4p on every gallon after Iraqi invasion

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

OIL company executives will tell a new enquiry by MPs that they lost 4p on every gallon of petrol sold in the last quarter, despite big rises at the pumps.

BP and Shell will be expected to justify huge increases in profits when they are called before the all-party Commons select committee on energy, in the third investigation this year into petrol pricing. BP's profits quadrupled in £822 million in the three months to September, while Shell's were up 70 per cent to £1.1 billion.

The profits caused an outcry among MPs, who accused the companies of profiteering at the expense of motorists. The price of petrol has risen by more than 30p a gallon during the Gulf emergency.

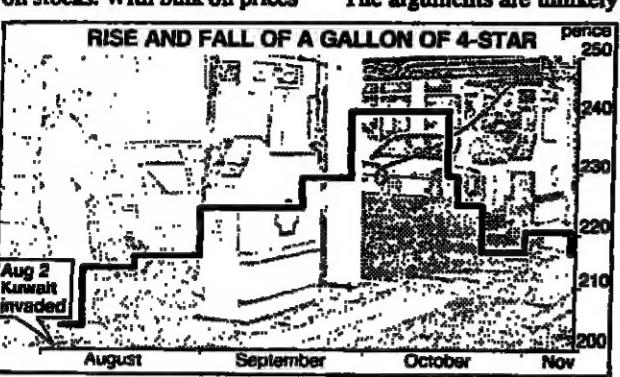
Oil industry executives, exasperated by constant criticism, say that the profits mask the true picture. Both companies say the figures included a large element of paper profits covering the value of oil stocks. With bulk oil prices

rising, the paper value of their stocks has also risen.

BP buys in 40 per cent of its oil, which means the company has had to replenish much of its supply in recent weeks at the higher bulk prices being charged because of the volatility in world markets. The company said that by failing to raise pump prices quickly when Kuwait was invaded, its losses on petrol amounted to an average 4p a gallon throughout the last quarter.

BP said: "These stock profits are meaningless in the cash sense. Our stocks are valued, but they have to be replaced at higher prices and are worthless until they are sold on. We also have to take the risk of buying and selling oil at the right price. The headline profit total does not tell the whole story."

Shell said: "The element of UK petrol sales is very small in comparison with Shell's worldwide business operating in 100 countries." The arguments are unlikely



Sentence on mother delayed

A MOTHER who killed her four children is to be examined by a third psychiatrist after two others disagreed on how she should be treated, causing a judge yesterday to delay sentencing her.

Oi Tai Ngai, aged 33, has admitted strangling her children, aged between four months and five years, at their home in Basildon, Essex, on February 16, and claims grounds of diminished responsibility.

She is alleged to have been suffering from an acute psychotic illness when she committed the acts. However, two doctors cannot agree on how Mrs Ngai, aged 33, should be treated.

The case at Chelmsford was adjourned for sentencing until January. It was the third time sentencing had been delayed.

Children 'experimenting with drugs earlier'

By JOHN OLEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN are beginning to experiment with alcohol, tobacco and solvents at an earlier age, it was claimed yesterday at the launch of a range of advice packs for parents and primary schools.

The Skills for the Primary School Child programme also aims to protect children from drugs, bullying and child abuse, as well as addressing other health and safety issues. Funded by the education department, the initiative is being run by the Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction and Re-Solv, a charity concerned with solvent abuse.

Children under 12 will be offered a programme of instruction to enable them to protect themselves. The project is thought to be the first national programme for the prevention of drug abuse among young children.

An average of two children a week are dying from solvent abuse, and the charity estimates that at least one child in 10 is involved in bullying, either as victim or perpetrator. Reported cases of child abuse are also rising.

Alan Howarth, a junior minister at the education department, said: "It is paramount that we do all we can to protect our children through health education. I hope that it continues to help our young people adopt healthy life styles and to resist the pressures to mis-use drugs."

The first stage of a borough's plan to link its secondary schools and colleges with local businesses to guarantee pupils' jobs was launched in Wandsworth, southwest London, yesterday. The scheme will provide a range of programmes and projects for 14 to 18-year-olds. Nine schools will take part at first, eventually taking in the borough's two colleges and its remaining secondary schools. Although similar schemes already embrace almost 100 London schools, the Wandsworth scheme is the first to cover an entire borough.

Under the scheme, called Compacts, employers agree to offer work experience, to take teachers on secondment, release staff to visit schools and guarantee jobs for pupils who achieve their Compact goals.

The pupils must meet attendance and punctuality targets, complete courses and work experience satisfactorily and pass examinations in mathematics and English.



Family pride: Mary Robinson, Ireland's new president, is congratulated last night by her father Dr Aubrey Burke

Robinson praises Ireland's women

By DAVID YOUNG

MARY Robinson, who became Ireland's first woman president last night, has praised the women of Ireland. She said that: "Instead of rocking the cradle, they rocked the system". Mrs Robinson, a barrister, was confirmed as president of the Irish Republic after the completion of a second count of votes cast in Wednesday's election under proportion-

tional representation. She secured enough second preference votes from Austin Currie, of Fine Gael, to ensure victory over Brian Lenihan of Fianna Fail. She described her campaign as "a barn storming, no-holds political battle between my ad hoc assembly of political activists, of idealists, of romantic realists."

She said: "We were up against the

might and the money of the greatest political party in this country and we beat them. I was elected by men and women of all parties and none, by many with great moral courage who stepped out from the faded flags of the civil war and voted for a new Ireland and above all, by the women of Ireland. Some people say that a politician's promises are worthless - well we shall see."

Raiders steal £1m Turner from flat

By STEWART TENDERL CORRESPONDENT

A TURNER painting worth £1 million and a work by the 18th century Venetian master Michele Marieschi have been stolen by a gang of thieves who bluffed their way into a London flat, attacked the owner and then cut the pictures from their frames.

Scotland Yard refused yesterday to name the owner of the paintings, a man aged 66 who was left bound, gagged and blindfolded. He was unharmed apart from a small cut to his neck.

Police have not so far linked the theft with any other art robberies. The gang knew exactly what they wanted to take, suggesting that they may have been robbing to order.

They stole a Turner entitled "Grand Junction Canal Southall Mill", first shown in 1810, and "Venice with the Palazzo Pesaro" by Marieschi, which is estimated to be worth £250,000. The burglary took less than 15 minutes.

The gang struck at teatime on Thursday evening at Burton Court in Franklin's Row, Chelsea. Three men called at the outer door of the block of flats and rang the flat where the paintings were kept, saying they had a parcel to deliver. The paintings' owner them to contact the porter. The men got through the electronically-controlled outer doors without being seen by the porter, possibly entering the building with an unwitting resident. The gang donned masks and knocked at the door of their target.

The owner opened the door and was overwhelmed by the three. At one point he was threatened with a knife to the throat, he was tied up and the paintings were taken from their frames. They were then hidden inside an artist's portfolio case and the gang walked out. The flat owner, still tied, was found about 45 minutes later by his stepdaughter.

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"If it came to our attention

Security system unable to detect Lockerbie bomb

A BAG "slipped in" to Pan Am Flight 103 when it took off from Frankfurt could not have been spotted under the airline's baggage handling procedures at Heathrow, the Lockerbie enquiry heard yesterday.

Alan Tucker, the airline's Heathrow general manager, told the hearing in Dumfries that if a bag jolted the flight at Frankfurt, and the passenger matched to that bag failed to join the onward leg from Heathrow to New York, it would have been searched or off-loaded at Heathrow. If, however, there was no passenger and the bag had been "slipped in" to the system at Frankfurt, the airline had no procedure for detecting it.

The disclosure came as Mr Tucker was being cross-examined by Lee Kreindler, the lawyer for American relatives of the disaster victims. Of the 270 who died in the bomb blast over Lockerbie, 188 were Americans.

Mr Tucker said baggage was classed as either "interline",

belonging to passengers switching between airlines at a stage in their journey, or "online", passengers transferring between planes run by the same airline.

When Flight 103 took off from Frankfurt on December 21 1988, all baggage on the Boeing 727 that took passengers to London would have been classed as online at Heathrow for those continuing to New York on the Boeing 747 "Maid of the Seas".

Mr Tucker said interline baggage at Heathrow would have been x-rayed but would have had no further checks. The Federal Aviation Authority had granted Pan Am a relaxation of strict rules for checking such bags.

Mr Kreindler asked if there was a requirement for any unaccompanied baggage, whatever its source, to be either physically searched or off-loaded. Mr Tucker said: "If it came to our attention

Butler and cook 'stole £1m silver'

A butler and a cook pleaded guilty yesterday to stealing £1 million worth of the family treasures of the Marchioness of Zetland.

Paul Bennett, aged 33, and Margaret Russell, aged 38, worked for seven weeks at the marchioness's country home, Aske Hall, near Richmond, North Yorkshire, and then vanished. Their haul included the 1770 Richmond Cup.

The couple, who previously ran a garage in Taunton, Somerset, admitted carrying out the theft between April and June when they appeared at Teesside crown court with David Smedley, aged 44, a dealer, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who denied handling the silver.

They also pleaded guilty to making false statements to obtain passports. Russell also admitted obtaining £10,000 by deception when she sold silver to another dealer.

The couple were remanded in custody and Smedley's £65,000 bail was continued. He was ordered to report twice a week to the police.

High lead levels

Levels of lead 1,000 times the legal limit were found in drinking water in Blackburn, Lancashire. It was disclosed yesterday. Some 15,000 houses could be affected. The local health authority fears children and pregnant women could be at risk from long-term exposure to lead in drinking water. The town is particularly affected because its soft water easily absorbs lead from the domestic pipes.

Jaguar stoppage

Jaguar stopped all production and laid off 2,000 assembly workers at its Coventry factory yesterday 24 hours after the workforce balloted to accept the company's pay package. The lay-offs were caused by a shortage of car body panels from Swindon. The company said that a further 500 would be laid off on Monday and Tuesday. The workers will, however, report back on Wednesday.

Sex bias award

Mrs Sally Lister, a teacher from Ulverston, Cumbria, was yesterday awarded £6,000 compensation by a Carlisle industrial tribunal which upheld her sex discrimination claim. She said she was not appointed deputy head of a department at Ulverston Victoria High School because the head of the department could not work with a woman, but the headmaster claimed she was not suitable for the job.

Acid in sewers

Valve failure on a storage tank led to 50 tonnes of sulphuric acid leaking into a sewer. Warrington crown court was told yesterday. Joseph Crossfield and son, part of Unilever, pleaded guilty to the discharge and was fined £25,000 with £600 costs. Last year it was fined £1,500 for a similar offence.

CORRECTIONS

In Thursday's appointments supplement an article about doctors abandoning medicine because of the hours and conditions was wrongly illustrated with a photograph of an unnamed doctor taken in a different context. We regret the error and any inconvenience caused to the doctor concerned.

The Times reported on October 20 that Hammersmith and Fulham council considered withdrawing services from non-payers of the poll tax. The council says that it did not.

The Times overseas editions on November 22-23, 1990, Royal Navy, 100 pence; Cyprus 50 cents; Denmark Dkr 16.000; France 10 francs; Germany DM 1.00; Greece Dr 100; Italy L. 5.000; Japan Yen 100; Korea 100 won; Luxembourg 2.200; Malta 1.00; Mexico Peso 12.00; Netherlands 12.00; Norway Kr 180; Portugal Esc 12.00; Spain 12.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.80; Tunisia Dinar 1.00; USA \$ 2.50.

Rogues' gallery logs on to Fu Manchu

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FU-MANCHU, Frodo, Whale and Ping Pong, electronic offspring of the world's clandestine computer virus community, are being stored in an archive by the Metropolitan Police.

The rogues' gallery of rogue programs is being set up at New Scotland Yard's computer crime unit to act as an international police information centre. The move highlights the seriousness with which officers at the unit and foreign law enforcement agencies view the hundred or more viruses at loose in the world.

The decision also reinforces Britain's position as the focal point of an international effort to tackle the threat to databases from people who, for vanity or profit, break into or tamper with the sensitive

electronic files. Computer viruses are self-replicating programs which can infect computers through the exchange of floppy discs, down telephone lines or through electronic communication systems from where they can undermine systems and damage electronic files.

Barry Donovan, one of the unit's four officers, said: "We have recently been made aware of a number of serious viruses. We look on this as a potential threat and we want to be prepared."

Under the Computer Misuse Act, it is an offence to modify data on a computer and it can carry a maximum five-year sentence. Mr Donovan said the unit was determined to extradite people suspected of writing viruses.

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Race abuse soldier given right to claim compensation

THE army's decision to deny a black soldier compensation or any other form of redress after he suffered racial abuse was quashed in the High Court yesterday.

Two judges ruled that army investigations into former Private Stephen Anderson's complaint that he was punched, kicked and called "nigger" by fellow members of the Devon and Dorset Regiment were flawed. Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland set out a series of guidelines to be followed by the Army Board of the Defence Council when it reconsiders the case.

Michael Day, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said: "I am delighted for Mr Anderson and delighted that the judgment seems to extend the scope to redress discrimination." Mr Anderson, aged 24, of Stratford-upon-Avon, said: "I don't know what to say."

The commission had backed the former private's application for judicial review, regarding it as an important test case to establish that serving members of the armed forces should not be treated less favourably than

civilians in racial discrimination investigations. The Army Board had claimed it was not bound by the same rules as those which apply when civilians bring claims for compensation under the 1976 Race Relations Act.

The judges agreed that the board had a wider discretion over its own investigations, but that in Mr Anderson's case it had taken an approach which was "seriously defective". Mr Day said that the army had denied Mr Anderson



Anderson: gobsmacked by High Court decision

Few recruits from ethnic minorities

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE case of former Private Stephen Anderson is not the first to make the army think about its policy on alleged racial discrimination.

The opinion, often professed at the staff colleges at Warminster and Camberley, is that since people who seek a career in the army reflect the prejudices of society as a whole, there will be personnel who have racial tendencies.

Cases of alleged racial discrimination in the armed forces – and in the police – have a greater impact in the public eye, however, than allegations arising in other parts of society. Racial abuse, like bullying, is perceived to be symptomatic of an underlying feature of service life.

The army says that it is only the negative cases that make the headlines and people from the ethnic minorities who are content with their careers have no reason to speak out.

Nevertheless, race has become an important issue for all three services in recent years. Not least because of the need in the government's eyes to attract more recruits from ethnic minorities. Since Asian and Afro-Caribbean immigration began in the late 1950s and early 1960s, few have applied to join the services.

A defence ministry report showed that in 1988, out of 21,135 applicants for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, only 1.4 per cent were from non-white groups. Out of 50,368 applicants for the army, 1.7 per cent were from ethnic minorities. In the case of the RAF, 1.5 per cent of the 17,242 applicants were from ethnic minorities.

In regions such as Wales, Scotland and the north of England, the number of such applicants was almost negligible. Fear of racial discrimination is not the only reason for the lack of recruits. In a survey carried out on behalf of the defence ministry, Peat Marwick McLintock management consultants, asked a



Southwell: among the Bar's high priests and regarded as one of its leading intellectual lights, he is more traditional than Mr Scrivener

Clash of styles in fight for Bar chair

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BATTLE lines will be drawn at the annual general meeting of the Bar today when, in what is believed to be an unprecedented move, a formal challenge is made for the influential post of chairman of the 6,000-strong profession in England and Wales. It could mean the vote being put to a postal ballot of the whole Bar Council.

The challenge in the election is being made by Richard Southwell, QC, prime architect of the Bar's response to the government's legal reforms, who is opposing the election of Anthony Scrivener, QC, the deputy chairman. The candidates have contrasting styles: Mr Scrivener is relaxed and informal, while Mr Southwell is "in the oldest, highest tradition of the Bar".

Normally, deputy chairmen automatically get the chairmanship. Dissatisfaction in some quarters with Mr Scrivener in the role of deputy chairman has, however, led to the challenge.

One senior barrister said: "The challenge really is almost unheard of and very divisive. Although their policies are not that dissimilar, they are markedly different in style."

At the heart of the challenge is a view, as one QC put it, that: "Tony Scrivener has not pulled his weight in the last year. He has spent a lot of time on cases, including a fair amount of time in Hong Kong. Also, some people feel

he rather shoots from the hip, and that his judgment is not always sound."

It is argued, however, that Mr Southwell's personality is against him. "He is intellectually arrogant and does not suffer fools gladly," the QC said.

The two candidates have different followings. Mr Scrivener is popular with the rank and file, and is the acknowledged leader of the Campaign for the Bar, a group of barristers who took the Bar Council by storm in 1986 and whose policies were instrumental in bringing about a more democratic electoral system. Mr Southwell, on the other hand, is one of the Bar's key policy makers and his work on the profession's response to the government's legal reforms has won wide respect.

Meanwhile, a parallel contest is being fought for the deputy chairmanship between Gareth Williams, QC, (also a candidate) and Roger Henderson, QC, chairman of the Bar's key public affairs committee and counsel to the King's Cross enquiry in 1988.

If the chairmanship is put to the whole Bar Council, barristers predict a close result. Whatever the outcome, there are fears that the split will weaken their ranks at a time when new rules are being drawn up to allow solicitors into the higher courts.

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Inspectors accuse sex abuse workers

By BILL FROST

SOCIAL workers in Rochdale ignored parents and children when dealing with alleged cases of sexual abuse, according to a leaked government report.

Guidelines were said to be out of date and social workers had failed to follow all the recommendations of the Cleveland enquiry. The BBC reported that those were some of the conclusions of government inspectors who investigated 30 cases of alleged abuse handled by Rochdale council over the past few months.

The investigators did not study a further 20 cases of alleged ritual satanic abuse involving children subsequently made wards of court.

The report, which is due for publication on Monday, said there was "a lack of full involvement of parents and children in the decisions made about them". Although some social workers tried a partnership with parents, that was not general and not accepted by some other professionals in the field.

The inspectors concluded that while Rochdale had most of the elements for an efficient professional service, they were not being managed and co-ordinated properly. Among the report's 41 recommendations was the need for new procedures as a matter of urgency, more involvement of parents and children, and clarification of which cases should be referred to police.

See Empblett of Parents Against Injustice, a group in Rochdale campaigning for an enquiry into the conduct of the social services department, said: "The report confirms all our anxieties. I fear what is happening here could be happening all over the country."



Covering her face with her hands, Karen Smith, aged 19, is being taken to the criminal court in Balsall Heath yesterday, where she pleaded guilty to drug smuggling charges. Miss Smith, from Solihull, West Midlands, was arrested with Patricia Cahill, aged 17, on July 18 last year, for possession of heroin. The sentence is expected to be given next month. Miss Cahill, who has

pleaded not guilty, goes on trial next Tuesday in the juvenile court because she is aged 17.

Diana Gordon, page 12

Judge berates appeal court rulings

By GEOFF KING

A JUDGE at the Central Criminal Court yesterday strongly criticised the Court of Appeal for taking away what he described as the "authority and dignity" of trial judges by "disingenuously" reducing proper

judges who pass the sentences," he said.

"There are judges in the land who are conscientiously weighing up sentences in the interests of both the defendant and the public, and the sentences are interfered with by the Court of Appeal in a way that takes away a good deal of the dignity and responsibility of the working judiciary."

• John Blotfield, QC, an East Anglian circuit judge, since 1982, was yesterday sworn in as a High Court judge. Mr Justice Blotfield, aged 58, who was called to the Bar of Lincoln's Inn in 1956, will sit in the Queen's Bench Division.

Lord Justice Taylor said: "Except where public interest immunity is established, I see no reason why... the board should consider material with held from the complainant."

Mr Anderson, who joined the army in September 1983, was the only black soldier in his platoon. He was discharged on medical grounds because of flat feet in April 1988 after he alleged racial abuse had taken place in Berlin and at his regiment's home base at Bulford, Wiltshire. Two soldiers were subsequently disciplined.

The judge said Mr Anderson complained to his commanding officer, who refused redress, and then pursued the matter unsuccessfully to brigade and district level and eventually to the Army Board.

In April 1987 he went absent without leave, blaming the abuse he had suffered for his actions. He was arrested the following September and was later court martialled.

Lord Justice Taylor criticised the two army board members for considering Mr Anderson's case separately and reaching their conclusions without ever meeting.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL



John Patten and David Waddington conferring at the criminal justice bill press conference yesterday

Child videos in court after study

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE decision by Home Office ministers to include in the criminal justice bill provisions for children to give evidence in sexual abuse and assault cases on video and through closed circuit television comes after a successful pilot project in 18 crown courts.

The Lord Chancellor's department, responding to concern about abuse cases collapsing because child witnesses were "freezing" when questioned in open court, sanctioned the experimental use of video evidence in January 1989.

A change in the law, so that child victims of abuse need not give evidence in open court, was called for by an advisory committee chaired by Judge Pigot, QC, in December last year. The committee accepted that children were disturbed by giving evidence in open court and that the "overweening nature of court formalities made the experience harmful, oppressive and often traumatic".

The Pigot committee recommended that video re-

cordings of a child witness should be made before the trial in a preliminary hearing in informal surroundings, as that would give the court access to an important source of evidence.

Courts in the pilot project were already using pre-trial video evidence in abuse cases recorded by police officers and social workers. In September 1989, a father aged 50 was sentenced to eight years imprisonment after a court saw the video evidence of a girl aged six. The courts have also seen children being cross-examined through a live television link-up, as the witness gave evidence in a different room.

Before the experiment, children would often be screened from view when giving evidence in court, so that the defendants could not see them. In one case at the Central Criminal Court, a camera and screen was brought in to allow the defendants to see the children give evidence, while ensuring that the children could not see the defendants.



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Balanced package of reforms pledged

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

GREATER consistency in sentencing, more successful prosecutions in child abuse cases and fewer jail terms for petty offenders were promised yesterday as the government published a criminal justice bill, widely seen as the most important for a generation.

David Waddington, the home secretary, said that the bill was a "balanced package" designed to satisfy the public's demands for exemplary penalties for criminals such as rapists, murderers and drug traffickers and the need for more property offenders to be saved from hardening and costly jail sentences.

The broad thrust of the bill – the extension of statutory sentencing guidelines, reform of the parole system and the introduction of a wider range of community penalties – was expected. There was one big surprise. The bill also contains measures, recommended by Judge Pigot, QC in a report a year ago, to make it easier to bring child abuse cases to court and to reduce stress on children giving evidence.

The decision raises the prospect of child abuse cases being transferred directly to crown court, avoiding committal proceedings; the routine use of video-recorded evidence from children in abuse trials; and an

Main points

- Creation of a more coherent sentencing framework and sharper differences in punishments between violent and non-violent offenders
- New statutory sentencing guidelines to cover most criminals
- A broader, more effective range of community penalties
- Introduction of "unit fine" system
- Changes in prisoner release rules so that all inmates spend longer in jail
- Penalties for parents who wilfully fail to control delinquent children
- Contracting out of court escort duties and the management, on a trial basis, of a remand centre
- Abolition of competence rules in child abuse cases and use of video-recorded evidence from child witnesses

end to courts questioning children before trials to test their competence as witnesses.

The bill seeks to achieve greater sentencing consistency by imposing new statutory guidelines on courts. With the exception of the most heinous

offenders, the guidelines would allow imprisonment only if an offence was "so serious" as to rule out a community penalty or to protect the public from "serious harm". In addition, those deciding sentences would have to explain in court why jail was appropriate.

As expected, however, Mr Waddington, a former judge, has watered down his original proposal that courts should generally disregard previous convictions when sentencing. Faced by strong protests from judges and magistrates, he has decided that courts should be able to take into account the "circumstances" of past offences. Relevant factors could be whether previous crimes involved violence or the threat of violence.

At a press conference yesterday, Mr Waddington denied suggestions that the sentencing criteria were too vague and that, under the new regime, courts would take previous convictions into account as much as they have done until now. Courts were highly skilled in weighing the relative seriousness of offences, he said. They needed to be encouraged to draw a greater distinction between violent and non-violent offenders when deciding punishments. Significantly, Mr Waddington dampened expectations that the proposals would lead to a big fall



How a child witness is interviewed by television link

in Britain's high prison population. He considered the bill's main aim to be improving the consistency and fairness of sentencing, not easing jail overcrowding. "If the end result is a fall in the prison population ... I will be very glad, but that is not the prime objective," he said.

The drive to punish more property offenders outside jail is also reflected by the proposals for a wider, more demanding range of community penalties and fines that are closely based on ability to pay. Courts would be able to combine probation with community service, place more stringent demands on offenders sentenced to probation and impose curfews, restricting an offender to his home for up to 12 hours a day, enforced by electronic tagging.

A new "unit fine" system would mean that financial penalties would be tailored strictly to offenders' disposable incomes. Balancing such proposals, designed to be liberal in impact if not in metoric, are measures which

would mean that all prisoners would serve a greater proportion of their sentences in jail. All inmates serving sentences longer than a year become eligible for parole, a discretionary process, after completing a third of their terms. Under the proposed regime, all inmates serving terms of four years or more would only be eligible for parole at the mid-sentence point. Remission, under which all sentences, save those for life prisoners, are automatically cut by a third, would be abolished.

Ministers, in spite of strong protests, have also pressed ahead with proposals to penalise parents who wilfully neglect delinquent children. They will also allow private security firms to escort prisoners to and from courts, an exercise that engages 2,200 police and prison officers each working day. Juvenile courts would be able to base fines on the means of the parent rather than the child and to bind parents over in the good behaviour of their offspring.

Other proposals include more flexible powers for the courts to deal with offenders aged 16 and 17; the abolition of jail terms for boys aged 14; and an exemption clause to allow courts to impose unusually long jail terms on persistently violent criminals.

Leading article, page 13

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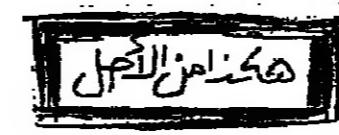
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Drug case decision deferred

A decision on whether 2,500 former tranquilliser users can sue the drug companies which they claim turned them into addicts was deferred by Mr Justice Kennedy at Bristol crown court yesterday.

Paul Balan, one of the solicitors representing the former addicts, said: "We are very pleased. The co-ordinating arrangements are now in place." It is understood that the judge will announce his decision next week.

The group, represented by 547 solicitors, want compensation from two companies that produce benzodiazepines, the British Wyeth Laboratories, which makes the drug under the name of Ativan, and the Swiss-owned Roche Products, which makes Valium. If successful, the subsequent case would be the largest personal injuries action to be launched in England.

Bombing checks

Irish police are investigating the possibility of links between an IRA "proxy" bombing and the arrest of six men just across the border after the explosion in which five soldiers and a civilian died on October 24 at a checkpoint outside Londonderry. The IRA forced a man to drive a car to the checkpoint which was packed with 750lb of explosives.

Shipyard cuts

More than 300 jobs are to be lost at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Merseyside, it was announced yesterday, as orders for three Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarines have been completed. VSEL, the owner, announced last month that it was looking for a buyer for the Birkenhead yard, but it would have to close if one could not be found. The 300 jobs are likely to disappear in the new year.

Murder charge

A woman is to face for the second time a charge of murdering her 10-month-old nephew. Wakefield magistrates had ordered a charge that Amina Karim, aged 52, murdered her nephew Sumair Zahoor be scrapped because there was no case to answer. However, Mr Justice Ognall granted an application by the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday effectively reinstating charges of murder.

Anglican-Catholic talks to move on

By ROBIN GRIFFITH, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

TALKS between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches will take a big step forward next year with the publication of a long-awaited document which the Vatican has been accused of suppressing, it was disclosed yesterday.

The document is likely to confirm that the issue of the ordination of women could be a serious handicap in Catholic recognition of Anglican orders. A senior Vatican figure said that the Catholic church would shortly publish its response to the joint theological statement of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC II), but the second commission needs the Vatican's response to the statements of its predecessor to proceed further.

In the meantime, the Church of England has moved closer towards ordaining women as priests. The newly-elected General Synod, which meets for the first time next week, will probably decide on the "Ordination of Women Measure" in 1992. The first woman bishop was consecrated in America in 1988.

Archbishop Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, has said that the ordination of women had created "a major difficulty" between Rome and Canterbury. Last night, he added that this would be reflected in the official reply to ARCIC I.

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, has said that he favours closer relations with Rome and that he supports the ordination of women to the priesthood.

Wallabies escape as bird stolen from zoo

By NICHOLAS WATT

A GROUP of wallabies escaped yesterday from their cage at Whipsnade wild animal park, Bedfordshire, after thieves cut through fencing to steal a rare scarlet macaw.

By last night zoo keepers had recaptured two of the albino wallabies, which are part of Britain's only breeding colony.

The theft of the macaw, called Jessie, is believed to be part of a multi-million-pound black market in rare birds that is threatening the survival of the pecteninae species, that includes parrots and the macaw. Jessie was only one of four at the park, and the second to be stolen in less than a year.

Richard Koch, the park's curator, said the macaw was worth up to £5,000 and would probably be smuggled to Belgium where dealers or a prospective owner would be waiting.

Whipsnade, which has lost almost 20 birds during the past 18 months, is so concerned for their safety that it has decided to stop breeding the pecteninae species and to keep only a few of the birds for demonstrations.

A group of 14 galah birds, a gift from the Australian government, was stolen 18 months ago, followed a few months later by a scarlet macaw and a cockatoo.

The thieves took advantage yesterday of the park's faulty alarm system. Keepers said they had worked out their route carefully and had little difficulty in breaking into the 80-acre park.

Scientists 'build' antibody to fight infectious disease

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists have produced the first custom-built human antibody that can be used to treat an infectious disease.

The antibody is effective in mice against the virus that is the main cause of respiratory infections in young children and may also cause up to half of Britain's 2,000 cot deaths every year. The new treatment is expected to go on clinical trial in human patients soon.

Bill Harris, managing director of Scigen and professor of genetics at Aberdeen university, said yesterday that he hoped a single dose of the antibody would be sufficient to cure those infected with the virus, known as RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). The virus, which is similar to that causing influenza, is the single largest cause of respiratory infections in children admitted to hospital and causes annual epidemics of bronchiolitis and pneumonia throughout the world.

Serious infections with RSV can be fatal or lead to lung damage. Professor Harris says that in the United States the virus is believed to be responsible for up to 10,000 deaths a

year; no comparable figures exist for Britain, partly because the virus is difficult to detect.

Scigen, a small company established by Professor Harris and other leading British experts in genetic engineering, used a technique developed at the Medical Research Council's molecular biology laboratory in Cambridge for producing large quantities of antibodies. Such antibodies are in principle the ideal way of helping the body defeat attacks by viruses, which cannot be eliminated by conventional drugs such as antibiotics.

The problem has been producing human antibodies in sufficient amounts. The Scigen method, discovered by Dr Greg Winter at Cambridge, consists of starting with mouse antibodies, and "humanising" them by genetic and protein engineering so that they can be given to human patients without being recognised as foreign material and rejected. Mouse antibodies can be produced in sufficient amounts by infecting mice repeatedly with RSV and harvesting the antibodies

produced, a process that would not be ethically acceptable in humans.

The antibodies finally produced are a blend of human and mouse elements. "They are 95 per cent human," Professor Harris says. So far they have not been tested on humans, but a single dose has proved sufficient to cure infected mice, even when the RSV had been given four days to establish itself before treatment.

Professor Harris says that the antibodies will work as both a prophylactic against infection and as a treatment. The first clinical trials will be carried out on volunteers as soon as a collaborating hospital has been identified.

Dick van Velzen, professor of foetal and infant pathology at the Royal Liverpool children's hospital, welcomed the development, but although he believes that up to 1,000 cot deaths a year in Britain can also be attributed to RSV, he doubts that the antibody can do much to help. Babies who die suddenly in their cots often show no previous symptoms of infection, so they would not have been treated.



Wrens take break from warship life

By BILL FROST

SEVENTEEN Wrens, the first to serve on a frontline warship, began a welcome week-end's leave yesterday after a month at sea cheek by jowl with the 240 male crew of the frigate HMS Brilliant.

The Brilliant docked in the Pool of London yesterday

morning where she will remain until Monday. Her crew will then rejoin the vessel and sail to Devonport. The Wrens seemed to be none the worse for their voyage, although some admitted to bouts of sea-sickness during a gale last week. "We had a couple of bumpy days

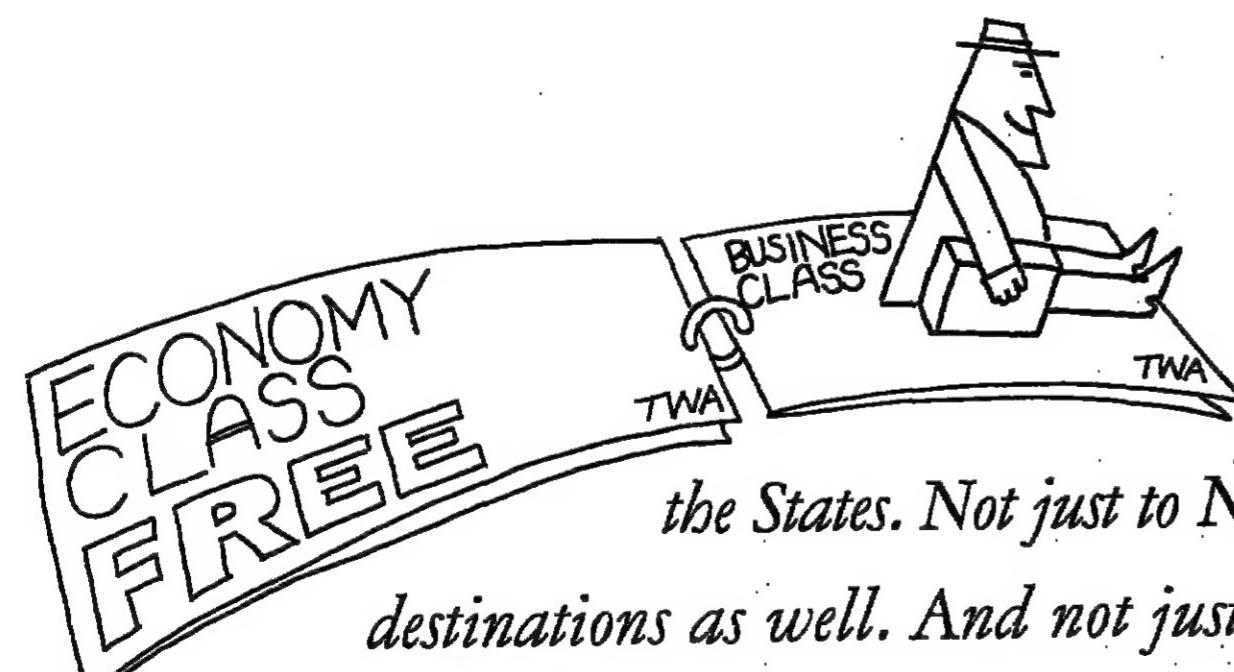
and it was difficult trying to shower as the water slopped out of the cubicle," said Jan Whittle, aged 29, from Coventry. Storms of a different kind had greeted the announcement that the Wrens were putting to sea at all. Anxious navy wives said that their husbands and boyfriends could become involved in shipboard romance. "Absolute rubbish. We are far too busy to socialise," said 3rd officer Tanya Luffman, aged 19, from Cardiff. Melanie Sharp, aged 23, agreed: "After an 18-hour day in rough weather we would far sooner go to our own mess deck for some女人的 talk."

Jeanine Mason, aged 26, from St Austell, Cornwall, said that her husband had been doubtful about her joining the crew. She had no complaints, however, about the way she was treated by her male shipmates. "It has all been a good laugh. The lads would like us to take a saucer of milk out to the Seacat, but naturally we know it's a missile."

Leading radio operator John Hickman said: "A couple of the older guys were a bit uncomfortable about having women aboard a warship. But they need not have worried. The girls pitched in and they are just like us now... well, almost."

Captain Richard Cobbold said that any reservations he had harboured were soon dispelled. He even said that one of the Wrens, 3rd officer Alison Traherne, could end up commanding her own warship, or even as First Sea Lord. Praise indeed, and from a man, too.

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10/10/90

16/10/90
23/10/90

Battle lines drawn as Scots prepare for Paisley by-elections

By KERRY GILL

FORTY years of control over local politics in Paisley is unlikely to do the Labour party any good in the by-elections at Paisley North and South at the end of this month.

Labour's majorities of 14,442 and 15,783 respectively look certain to be badly mauled if not toppled by the Scottish National Party candidates. An early poll of the constituencies has shown that Labour is already facing defections. The survey found that for

every three Labour sympathisers, five were planning to vote for the nationalists. There is talk of another Govan, where two years ago the nationalists overthrew a Labour majority of more than 19,000 to win.

Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, said that the nationalists appeared to have the upper hand. "What our work shows is that there is nervousness on the part of the Labour party." He also acknowledged that Paisley could turn into another Govan.

"It could be. Our target is to perform respectively."

The two-horse race between Labour and the nationalists will be decided on local issues such as housing, unemployment, the poll tax and blunders by the district council, including the payment of £1.3 million to a building contractor who later went bankrupt without completing work.

Gordon McMaster, Labour candidate for Paisley South, is the former leader of Renfrew district council. Yesterday he said that the council officers who had

been responsible for the payment had been disciplined and that the auditor had subsequently reported that proper council procedures had been in place.

Donald Dewar, Labour's spokesman on Scotland, has turned his attention to the announcement this week that the Clydesdale tube works in Bellshill, Lanarkshire is to close with the loss of 1,200 jobs. He said that there was a strong case for the retention of a Scottish steel industry, and that all options to save it remained open.

Iain Lawson, the nationalist can-

didate for Paisley South and the party's spokesman on steel and industry, said that British Steel had given guarantees at the time of privatisation, promising to consider the sale of Scottish assets they no longer needed. Mr Lawson urged Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, to win cabinet approval to call in the guarantees within seven days.

This announcement showed the total contempt with which we are treated by London," Mr Lawson said. "The only solution is Scottish control of our own affairs, with an independent

Scottish steel industry and an independent Scottish parliament within the European Community."

General election 1987

Paisley North: Adams (Lab), 20,193; McCann (SDP/All), 5,751; Laing (C), 5,741; Taylor (SNP), 4,696. Lab majority: 14,442.

Paisley South: Buchan (Lab), 21,611; Carmichael (L/All), 5,826; Williamson (C), 5,644; Mitchell (SNP), 5,398. Lab majority: 15,783.



Smiles ahead: Terry Rooney celebrates with supporters yesterday after his convincing win for Labour in the Bradford North by-election

Tory post-mortem after lacklustre poll performances

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE party officials will hold a review into all aspects of the organisation's lacklustre by-election campaign in Bradford North, where the government took third place behind the Liberal Democrats.

Although Joy Atkin was a nervous and hesitant candidate, she faced other obstacles that would have defeated even the strongest candidate. The campaign in the marginal seat took place against a strong Labour lead in the opinion polls nationally and with the high interest and mortgage rates making the Conservatives deeply unpopular among their own supporters.

The last week of her campaign, however, was dominated by what Kenneth Baker described as "noises off", the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine's letter criticising the prime minister's style of leadership.

While the seat was nominally a marginal, the Conservatives had held it from 1983-87 only in the exceptional circumstances caused by Labour's internal problems. In 1983 Ben Ford, the former MP, had been deselected but stood as an independent, split the Labour vote and brought victory for the Tories. Four years later Pat Wall, Labour's hard left candidate, helped the Conservatives come within

1,633 votes of retaining the seat.

No such mistake was made by Labour in its choice of candidate for the by-election, Terry Rooney, a cautious, down Kinnockite, had strong local roots as deputy leader of Bradford metropolitan council and credentials for helping to remove the Militant influence from the local party. He also had the backing of a campaigning team which was far superior to that provided for Miss Atkin.

Having ruled out changes to the by-election candidates are chosen, the Tories' post mortem into their defeat will concentrate on how the party's by-election campaigning can be strengthened.

Campaign literature has already been improved and candidates are likely to be given more extensive media training to help them to handle the intense press attention peculiar to by-elections.

Miss Atkin's limitations were cruelly exposed during the daily press conference when, in addition to her nervousness, she at times had difficulty answering questions on government policies. Her campaign was launched without a cabinet minister in attendance and election leaflets showed her posing in a graveyard. She was also ill at ease when canvassing.

In the room in which her daily

press conference was held was too small, allowing journalists to sit within a few feet of the candidate. She had received little media training and in spite of being born in Bradford, had a genteel southern image. On the campaign trail, photographers were able to take the initiative in getting the pictures they wanted rather than the other way round. As one Labour party official commented: "These were lessons we learned long ago."

Miss Atkin's campaign was not helped by the absence on a number of days of Tony Garrett, the party's head of campaigning. He spent some time in Bootle on Merseyside ensuring that the Conservatives held on to second place.

Although Booth is one of the safest Labour seats in the country, Mr Garrett had to divide his energies between the Merseyside seat and Bradford North. He was determined to prevent a damaging blow to party morale in the event of a lost deposit.

The Bootle by-election was won by Joe Benton with a majority of 78 per cent. James Clapson took the Tories to second place with a margin of 371 votes over John Cunningham, the Liberal Democrat candidate.

In the Bootle by-election in May the Conservatives had come within 41 votes of being pushed into third place.

• William Hill, the bookmakers, have lengthened the Tories' odds of winning the next general election from 6/5 to 5/4, the party's longest odds since Mrs Thatcher came to power. Labour whose odds shortened to 4/7 from 3/13, is now reckoned to have its best chance of victory at any time since Mr Kinnock became leader.

William Hill says, however, that people still believe Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservatives into the next election.

John Curtice, page 12



Bootle victor Joe Benton celebrates with wife Doris

BOOTLE	
Joe Benton (Lab)	22,052
James Clapson (C)	2,587
John Cunningham (L Dem)	2,216
Sean Brady (Green)	557
David Sutcliffe (Labour)	310
Kevin White (Lib)	291
David Black (Christian All)	132
Share of vote: Benton (Lab) 78.2%; Clapson (C) 9.1%; Cunningham (L Dem) 7.8%; Brady (Green) 2.0%; Sutcliffe (Labour) 0.8%; White (Lib) 0.9%; Black (Christian All) 0.9%. Lab majority: 19,463 (93.0%). Turnout: 52.8%.	
May 1982: M Carr (Lab) 26,737; J Clapson (C) 3,195; J Cunningham (L Dem) 7.8%; S Brady (Green) 2.0%; D Sutcliffe (Labour) 0.8%; K White (Lib) 0.9%; Black (Christian All) 0.9%. Lab majority: 23,542 (86.0%). Turnout: 52.8%.	
1987: A Hobson (Lab) 24,975; P Powlett (C) 10,498; P Duthie (SDP/All) 6,820. Lab majority: 24,477. Turnout: 72.9%.	
BRADFORD NORTH	
Terry Rooney (Lab)	18,619
David Ward (L Dem)	9,105
Joy Atkin (C)	5,048
Douglas Melor (Liberal)	2,220
Michael Knott (Green)	447
Robert Tamney (NF)	305
Joseph Floyd (Christian All)	219
Wili Becken (Labour)	210
Noel Nowotelski (Lib)	187
Malcolm Wrigglesworth (Ind C/All-Poll Tax)	69
Share of vote: Rooney (Lab) 51.6%; Ward (L Dem) 25.2%; Atkin (C) 16.7%; Melor (Liberal) 4.2%; Knott (Green) 1.2%; Tamney (NF) 0.8%; Floyd (Christian All) 0.8%; Becken (Labour) 0.6%; Nowotelski (Lib) 0.5%; Wrigglesworth (Ind C/All-Poll Tax) 0.2%. Lab majority: 9,514 (25.4%). Turnout: 53.4%.	
1987: P Wall (Lab) 21,009; G Lawler (C) 19,376; A M Berkeley (SDP/All) 8,655. Lab majority: 1,633. Turnout: 72.7%.	

How the Tories elect their leader

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANY contest for the leadership of the Conservative party must begin within 28 days of the opening of Parliament, with the arrangements being agreed between the leader and the chairman of the 1922 backbench committee.

Margaret Thatcher and Cranstey Onslow exercised their prerogative to fix a date within the 28-day period when they agreed a timetable last Tuesday. Nominations close on Thursday and if there is a contest, voting takes place the following Tuesday.

Under rules changed after last year's challenge by Sir Anthony Meyer, the names of the proposers and seconder of candidates are published. Mrs Thatcher has been proposed by Douglas Hurd and seconded by John Major.

Conservative MPs would cast their vote by secret ballot in a Commons committee room. Mr Onslow is to ask Sir Bernard Braine, the father of the House, Sir Michael Shaw and Dame Janet Fookes to act as scrutineers if necessary, a task they carried out last year. Then, voting took place be-

tween 10am and 6pm with Mr Onslow announcing the result at 6.25pm. If there is a contest on November 22, he is considering reducing the voting time.

To win on the first round, a candidate must obtain an overall majority plus 15 per cent more votes than the runner-up. If that did not happen, a second ballot would take place on November 27, with nominations closing on Thursday November 22. Nominations of candidates from the first ballot become void and other candidates can enter the fray. On the second ballot, a candidate must obtain an overall majority for victory.

If necessary, a third ballot

between the three highest

placed candidates would take

place on November 29. Voting

then would be at a preference

basis. If no overall majority is

gained, the bottom candidate

is eliminated and their

supporters' second choices

are redistributed between the

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Bonn pledges help without cash in pact with Moscow

From MARY DEJEVSKY AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY intends to represent Soviet interests inside the European Community and other leading Western international institutions. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, promised President Gorbachev in Bonn last night, after the two had signed four treaties binding their countries together in what both said was a new spirit of trust.

The chancellor's pledge was made in a speech where he claimed: "German-Soviet relations have a new, forward-looking quality, extending far into the next century." While offering no hard cash to help in the difficult transition to a free market economy, he promised the Soviet leader advice, good will and experience "on the basis of our firm anchorage in the European Community and our significant role in economic summits and in international economic and financial in-

situations". Germany, he said, wanted "to stand up for your country's interests there too".

For his part, Mr Gorbachev emphasised the deep roots of Russian-German friendship. "Germany and the Soviet Union are no longer potential military adversaries. Indeed, in Europe as a whole they have no conceivable enemies."

The four treaties include a non-aggression pact, an agreement to co-operate in trade, industry, science and technology, and the timetable and financial arrangements for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from eastern Germany. Herr Kohl said signing them closed "a sorrowful chapter in our past ... opening the door to wide-ranging co-operation and thus lending a new quality to our relationship."

Mr Gorbachev almost echoed those words. "Our bilateral relations have truly taken on another character."

The one sore point in their mutual relations, he said, concerned the Soviet troops remaining in eastern Germany. He appealed to the chancellor to ensure that their treatment would prove a touchstone for keeping relations between the two peoples "on a humane and friendly basis". He hoped that the hints of anti-Soviet feeling that had appeared among some Germans in past years would be only temporary.

Herr Kohl said: "We want to do everything possible to ensure that the Soviet soldiers and their families feel at ease during the rest of their stay here. We want them to have good memories of our country and to return home to secure conditions."

Given Herr Kohl's promise of help without money, the Soviet leader also seemed unhappy with current economic co-operation. He called on Germans to show more "boldness, breadth of vision, forward-thinking and willingness to take risks". He insisted that they were dealing with a great country with rich human and intellectual potential.

"Great changes are taking place in our country," he said, "but the new Soviet Union will remain a superpower, with vast potential and a sure future into the 21st century." He pledged that the Soviet Union would solve its problems. "But we will solve them faster and better if we co-operate with other countries."

The chancellor said this week that he hoped the Poles would, by Christmas be allowed to cross the border without a visa, although this will depend on an agreement with France and the Benelux countries, who now have an open border with Germany. It is a risky policy.

If Poles are allowed in, this will inevitably increase their desire for rapid prosperity, just as happened when East Germans were allowed freely into West Germany and could see at first hand the pleasures of a consumer society.

Poland's problems cannot be solved by a German takeover, and Herr Kohl argues that only by leading the way for substantial Western help to Warsaw can Germany ensure stability in the East. He is also anxious to improve living standards in the old Soviet bloc in order to stop the mass migration from there of ethnic Germans.

CHRIS Geoffroy was 20 when he died in the night of February 5 last year. He was a handsome, daring young man trying to escape from East Germany because, as he told a friend the day he died, he wanted "a little lifestyle at last".

His dream was to open his own restaurant in the West. He would, he told the friend who tried to flee with him, telephone his mother from the Kurfürstendamm the next day and say: "Hey, mom, you'll never guess where I am."

He never got that far. In the no-man's-land between the two Berlins he was shot repeatedly in the chest and bled to death in the lap of his friend, who escaped with injuries.

Chris Geoffroy was the last of 192 East Germans to be killed trying to escape the country in the 28-year history of the guarded border. A small cross, flowers and the words "Victim of the Honecker dictatorship" mark the place where he fell.

As Berlin celebrates the fall of the Wall a year ago Karin Geoffroy, his mother, is still struggling to bring her son's killer to justice. She now lives in west Berlin.

Frau Geoffroy has opened a private proceeding against Erich Honecker, who ordered border troops to shoot to protect themselves and the fortified border.

Her lawyer, Lothar Franz, is gently pessimistic. "The situation is extremely complicated," he says. "Under federal German law we have to prove a chain of events from Honecker's order to the shooting of Chris Geoffroy. I think we will get perhaps halfway, so the border guards will be tried but not those who gave the orders, which would be a second injustice."

The file on Chris Geoffroy's death was transferred from the office of the military public prosecutor in east Berlin to the legal authorities in the west. Four border guards who were

present on the night of the shooting have already declared themselves willing to help in the investigations, but no progress has yet been made.

Fran Geoffroy's face is lined with stress. "I came to terms with Chris's death but not with this hesitancy, these eternal delays. When the regime fell I thought 'Now there will be justice for Chris and for the others', but it is just the same. People in this part of Germany want to pursue their own lives, wipe out the past."

The Berlin authorities defend their slow progress with reference to the "mountains of files" of former leading East German functionaries that must be examined. The files on Herr Honecker fill an entire room and, although

investigations are under way into charges of corruption, aiding terrorism and his responsibility for deaths, no trial date is in sight.

The people who died on the border have simply fallen behind in the list of priorities," said Herr Franz. "There seems to be a resistance to examining the past, a desire to sweep things under the carpet."

Herr Honecker insists he had lifted the shoot-to-kill order. Guards who served on the border last year say they were still being ordered to shoot in defence. The file on the Geoffroy shooting admits he had turned to face the guards with his hands up in surrender. "They appear to have shot in cold blood," Herr Franz said.



Freedom's playground: two boys walk the top of the Berlin Wall on the first anniversary of its fall, while a man chips off a piece of it for a souvenir

SEE ELIZABETH TAYLOR AT 2½ STONE.



SEE THE CELEBRITIES' CHILDHOOD FACES BEFORE THEY GO UNDER THE AUCTIONEER'S HAMMER.

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Hand of friendship: Marianne von Weizsäcker, wife of the German president, holding on to Raisa Gorbachev outside the presidential residence in Bonn yesterday after the Soviet leader and his wife arrived for a two-day visit

Slow justice for last victim shot at Wall

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

Food mountains of EC threaten world markets

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE's horn of plenty is now disgorging so much food on to world markets that glut of alpine proportions are again stockpiling in granaries and cold stores.

The irony is that the surpluses will not help the Soviet Union, where shortages are threatening a bleak winter, the surviving in Ethiopia and Sudan, or the developing countries which have no money to import food. By flooding the market with subsidised food exports, the rich farming exporters make it impossible for poor and middle-ranking countries to compete and earn valuable hard currency.

These countries are especially critical of the EC's farm offer. "There seems to be complete paralysis. In virtually no area do we see progress being made," declared Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, the Venezuelan foreign minister, who spoke in Geneva behalf of 15 developing nations.

Cossiga called as Gladiator witness

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

FOR the first time in the history of Italy, its head of state has been called as a witness in a criminal investigation. The summoning of President Cossiga is likely to cause a constitutional uproar, overshadowing his wish to run for a second term.

Signor Cossiga was formally summoned yesterday by Felice Casson, a Venetian judge, to give evidence concerning violations of Italy's constitution resulting from "Gladiator", a clandestine Nato operation that started in the 1950s and had a secret army numbering about 6,000 people to "fight communism". Reports from the northeastern province of Friuli-Venezia Giulia claim it had hidden arms supplies all along its frontier with Yugoslavia during that time.

Gladiator may have become Italy's greatest scandal since the second world war. Its relationship with terrorist acts in the 1970s and early 1980s is not clear, but it has been linked to several threads of political sabotage. Acts that remain shrouded in mystery include the 1978 murder of Aldo Moro, the former prime minister, and the 1980 bombing of Bologna railway station.

Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister, tried to play down the operation, which he defended as a "legitimate child of Nato born during the years of the Cold War", when he addressed the Italian parliament on Thursday night.

The organisation was inspired by partisan warfare experience and based on the hypothesis that Italy faced the threat, along with other European countries, of a communist "invasion". Signor Andreotti said he denied it had breached Italian law.

However, Achille Occhetto, the leader of the Communist party, Italy's largest opposition group, called for Signor Andreotti's resignation and demanded more details of Gladiator's activities against communists within Italy.

A presidential spokesman said the summons contained "procedural anomalies" and implied that the government would have to decide whether its head of state could be questioned by a judge.

OSLO NOTEBOOK by Tony Samstag

Santa and reindeer shatter Nordic peace

The Christmas season comes easily to these latitudes, and with it a fresh outbreak of hostilities in the long-running War of Father Christmas. This year's opening salvos were fired, in fact, around the Ides of March when the Nordic Council, meeting in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik actually entertained a debate by Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic and Greenland delegates, with the Swedes sulking offstage, as to whose homeland was the real abode of Julemannen, as he is known in the Scandinavian languages. The issue was left hanging until July, when the 27th world congress of Father Christmases in Copenhagen took it up. There were 70 of them, from 10 countries, tucking into traditional Danish Christmas dinner. Temper rose quickly in the summer heat and a Greenlander challenged a Finn to a duel with dogwhip. An uneasy ceasefire had prevailed since, but now the Greenlanders have discovered the global warming trend, which clinches the argument as far as they are concerned, by threatening to change the winter wonderlands to the south.

There is a serious side to the debate, of course. Rovaniemi, in Finnish Lapland, one of the better

known of the many homes of Father Christmas, played host to no fewer than 22 charter flights last year, and the Father Christmas industry in Finland is reckoned to be worth at least £10 million annually. Father Christmas tours are especially popular with Japanese honeymooners, who find the combination of exotic scenery, sauna and long hours of winter darkness wildly romantic.

One Norwegian contender for the title of Father Christmas's headquarters is "Christmas Valley" near the west coast town of Sandnes. A few years ago this Norwegian establishment suffered a severe setback when Laika the reindeer died of a surfeit of Christmas cake and gingerbread. Laika's owners knew full well that most ruminants, which include reindeer, cannot digest flour, which ferments in the gut and eventually poisons the animal. But one especially busy day, the hordes of adoring young children, their pockets bulging with sweet Christmas goodies, got the better of the keepers and Laika joined the ghosts of reindeer past.

Meanwhile, the indigenous

Union. Never the most hospitable of environments, Fimmarksvida has been severely damaged in recent years by a combination of air pollution and overgrazing, to the point where the pacific Sami are now fighting each other for survival.

Reindeer are starving because large areas of reindeer moss, a kind of lichen on which they normally feed during the winter, have vanished.

Recent satellite photographs show a huge "black belt" of devastation through central Fimmarksvida. Slaughterhouses report that many of the reindeer delivered are so under-nourished they are unfit for human consumption and have to be used as animal feed or fertilizer.

Some flocks lost 60 per cent of their animals last winter, six times the normal rate of attrition. The food shortage has led to fighting not only among Norwegian Sami but also with their Finnish cousins as the Norwegians try to smuggle their animals across the border, where pasture is less damaged. On the Norwegian side, there is now a new phenomenon — reindeer rustling. Earlier this year, the police were holding more than 10,000 animals while the ownership was resolved.

Diary, page 12

they prefer to be known — have for millennia pursued an idyllic if rugged way of life as nomadic reindeer herders in the trackless wilderness of Fimmarksvida, where the Norwegian county of Fimmark sprawls towards the borders of Finland and the Soviet

Pa

MARCH 1990

March call Lukas to resi

Democracy

Post pillar

New ruler

Killer snake

Nurses stril

Past rituals usher in an emperor for the 21st century

From JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO

MOTOBUMI Higashizono counts himself lucky to have been intimately acquainted with two emperors of Japan. Companion since the age of three to the late Emperor Hirohito, he is now friend and mentor to Hirohito's son, Akihito, aged 56, who succeeded to the Chrysanthemum Throne in January 1989.

As the palace's chief ritualist, Mr Higashizono will direct operations at Monday's enthronement ceremony. And at the Daijōsai — the great food offering ceremony — on November 22, it will be his job to summon the gods of Japan and then kneel on guard while Emperor Akihito communies alone with Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and legendary mother of Japan.

"The Emperor has not rehearsed his role very much. He will share some sake with the gods and then lie down in the dark with Amaterasu. I am rather afraid that he'll go and knock something over," he said with a twinkle in his eye.

Mr Higashizono, a spry gentleman in his seventies who was born into a high-ranking aristocratic family from Sendai in northern Japan, is a well-connected figure at court. He is married to Princess Sawa (granddaughter of the late Emperor Meiji, who reigned from 1867 to 1912) and is one of the most senior officers of the powerful imperial household agency, or Kunaicho, the rotweiler that zealously guards Japan's imperial family.

The primary function of this august body, as impenetrable as the palace itself, is to maintain the opaque veil of mystique that surrounds the throne. It also administers an imperial etiquette so arcane that its origins are

lost in the mists of early history.

While Mr Higashizono remains characteristically silent on his own background, he is surprisingly effusive about his friend and protégé, the emperor. "His day-to-day lifestyle has changed very little from that of the Emperor Showa. He still, for example, has all his food checked by poison tasters. I remember during the years of rationing after the war, he used to get very upset at always having to give up part of his meal to the poison taster," he said.

All his life, Emperor Akihito has been carefully protected. As a boy he travelled everywhere in a special Mercedes-Benz, an armoured-plated vehicle with windows three inches thick. "It weighed four tons and all wooden bridges had to be tested before the car could cross them," recalled Mr Higashizono.

Today the emperor is driven around in a custom-built bullet-proof limousine, but this year for the first time he was allowed to travel in an ordinary car. "He made a special request to go in a Nissan on a trip to Hokkaido. The police were furious but we decided to allow it, just this once." Even this has caused complications. In order to maintain harmony between Japan's three giant car manufacturers, the palace garage now houses a Honda and a Toyota as well as the Nissan.

When Emperor Akihito is on view to the people, he is kept on a tight reign by his minders at the Kunaicho. His behaviour is strictly controlled — the display of emotion or informality is forbidden, smiles and waves are rationed and the rare words he utters in public must be pre-rehearsed.

According to Mr Higashizono, the emperor's role is to be in closer contact with the people, along the lines of the British monarchy. He has a long way to go. As yet he is still forbidden to drive his own car, let alone fight alongside his countrymen as Prince Andrew did during the Falklands conflict.

His most daring request to date has been for his limousine to be allowed to stop at red traffic lights, like ordinary cars. "The first time we allowed him to do this, half the procession got cut off and he was ten minutes



Chrysanthemum sovereigns: the late Emperor Hirohito and the 14-year-old Crown Prince Akihito, who will be enthroned on Monday, watching an athletics meeting in April 1947 with members of the imperial household.

late for a ceremony at Ueno," recalled Mr Higashizono, who was obviously unamused at the fiasco. This should not happen again. Rumour has it that Emperor Akihito's chauffeur now has a high-tech gadget that can change a traffic light from red to green at the flick of a switch.

While the emperor's early trip to Britain gave him an appetite for freedom, it did little for his academic career.

The emperor did not complete his course at Gakushuin University where he was studying political science and economics," said Mr Higashizono. "I think he had too much fun abroad just at the beginning of his studies," he added with a chuckle.

But his years at university were not wasted. They gave him what no other emperor of Japan has ever had: friends. These days he is

allowed to invite his classmates to the palace for an occasional game of tennis. And when they feel like a game of polo, they only have to step on to the emperor's own indoor polo pitch, inside the palace grounds.

Emperor Akihito's other hobby, said Mr Higashizono, is cooking. The palace kitchens are abundantly staffed by specialist chefs — among others, there is one who does nothing but make

Tokyo 'in dolphin killings cover-up'

From JOE JOSEPH
IN TOKYO

CONFICTING reports on how nearly 600 dolphins met their death on a remote Japanese beach have fed speculation that the government here may be helping to cover up events which it fears will infuriate wildlife protection groups.

The government, contradicting initial Japanese press reports that the killings last weekend were orchestrated by local fishermen and that the dolphins were clubbed and slaughtered for their meat, now says it is sure that it was a case of mass suicide. Indeed, the fishermen were trying to help the dolphins back into the sea at the island of Fukue, in the East China Sea, off Nagasaki.

Yesterday, a government spokesman said that a post-mortem examination on four of the dolphins found parasites in their ears, which may have confused their sense of direction.

The British press, which reported the affair prominently, has been accused of "Japan-bashing" and of inventing that the dolphins were deliberately driven on to the beach. However, the British reports were based on dispatches from the Nagasaki office of Kyodo, the national Japanese news agency.

Japan is anxious to prevent a replay of an incident that brought worldwide condemnation in 1978, when fishermen on Iki island, close to last Saturday's beaching, slaughtered about 1,600 dolphins to protect their fishing grounds. The government is now spearheading a campaign to deny and discredit the grim initial dispatches about last weekend's events.

Marchers call for Lukyanov to resign

Sweet revenge of Delhi 'wrecker'

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

Sofia — Thousands of Bulgarians marched through the capital last night demanding the resignation of Andrei Lukyanov, the beleaguered six-week-old Socialist administration. The protest followed yesterday's split by 17 Socialist deputies to form their own grouping within the party, removing Mr Lukyanov's guaranteed majority in parliament (Tim Judah writes).

Boris Dimonov said after announcing the break by himself and 16 MP colleagues: "We will support the Socialists when our ideas synchronise with theirs, and we can vote for the UDF (the opposition Union of Democratic Forces) if we support them."

The breakaway came on the eve of celebrations by the renamed Communist party to mark the first anniversary of the fall of the hardline dictator, Todor Zhivkov.

Democracy vow

Kathmandu — King Birendra yesterday proclaimed a new constitution for Nepal restoring multiparty democracy and stripping him of his absolute power. "This constitution has clearly guaranteed personal freedom and human rights," the king said in a broadcast three-minute speech at the Royal Palace. (Reuters)

Post pillaged

Gatima, Rwanda — Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels pillaged the strategic Gatima post on the Ugandan border before it was recaptured by Rwandan government troops. The attack appeared to be part of a new strategy of sabotage raids. The rebels ransacked the customs offices and set fire to eight food-laden lorries. (AFP)

New ruler

Maseru — Prince Sesile Moholo, aged 27, will be installed as Lesotho's king next Monday in place of the deposed King Moshoeshoe II, his exiled father, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, the military ruler since seizing power in 1986. (Reuters)

Nurses strike

Tokyo — About 100,000 nurses joined a nationwide 24-hour protest strike against the long hours and overwork that they claim jeopardise their babies during pregnancy and cause many to leave the profession. (AP)

Killer snake

Jakarta — A 20ft python killed an Indonesian woman and, finding her indigestible, ate her baby, aged five months, the *Kompas* daily reported. Villagers in Sumatra told the paper that the woman was found by her husband, crushed to death and with bite-marks running from ankle to waist. Her baby was missing. Acting on the advice of a local mystic, villagers found the snake, with the child's body inside. (Reuters)



Chandra Shekhar greeting Delhi colleagues yesterday

Leader's mission to stall election

From OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN DELHI

CHANDRA Shekhar, leader of a small political faction formed a few days ago, will be sworn in today as prime minister of a vulnerable minority Indian government created with the sole objective of stalling the next general election for perhaps three or four months.

His rise to power is a bizarre and temporary end to a period of acute political uncertainty in which Rajiv Gandhi refused to take over the reins of a nation torn by religious and caste violence, fearing that to do so would damage his chances of outright electoral victory. Mr Gandhi will throw the support of his Congress (I) party, which has just under 200 MPs, behind Mr Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal (Socialist) grouping, which claims the support of 50-odd MPs — about 10 per cent of the membership of the Lok Sabha (lower house).

President Venkataraman went through a precise ritual to find a prime minister, first approaching Mr Gandhi as the leader of the biggest party. Then he went to the hardline Hindu organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has 86 MPs. After that it was the turn of the communists, who have 55 MPs, to be asked if

they were "willing and able" to patch together a government. Finally, after Mr Gandhi said he was not willing to form a government and the others said they were not able to, Mr Chandra Shekhar was summoned to the presidential palace, and received the offer that two weeks ago had seemed inconceivable.

The president told him that he must face a confidence vote in parliament on November 20 to prove that he can command a majority. There will have to be some horse-trading with small parties and independents to ensure he succeeds. His grouping is so small that most of his team will have to be offered a government post. The outgoing government had 18 cabinet members, 15 ministers of state and five deputy ministers.

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10 MIDDLE EAST

Iraqis claim French sent Cheysson to free hostages

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AN OFFICIAL newspaper in Baghdad, in a deliberate and damaging attack on the French government's credibility, reported yesterday that Paris sent a special envoy to negotiate last week's liberation of some 300 French people from Iraq. The state-run *al-Jumhuriya* claimed that Claude Cheysson, a former foreign minister under President Mitterrand, negotiated the hostages' release at a meeting with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister.

The timing of the report could not be more embarrassing for France, coinciding with the talks of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, with President Mitterrand in Paris about the Gulf and French strategy in the event of war breaking out. The Iraqis, in naming Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, as having authorised M Cheysson's mission, are clearly seeking to exacerbate the divisions that already exist between the two governments over future policy on the Gulf.

In a report from Baghdad, the Associated Press quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying the two men had met in Tunis. The same sources indicated that the Palestine Liberation Organisation had paved the way for the talks, not long before the French negotiations were set free. It is known that M Cheysson was in Tunis on French government business last

August, when he met PLO officials to explain France's position on the Gulf.

Only this week, reacting to persistent rumours that M Cheysson had been involved in securing a hostage deal, M Dumas denied that anyone had been given a mandate to negotiate with the Iraqi regime. French government spokesmen have also insisted that the liberation of the hostages was a purely "unilateral" decision by Baghdad that had involved France in neither negotiation nor concession.

For his part, M Cheysson — a veteran diplomat whose services were enlisted for a previous Gulf mission — has consistently refused to confirm or deny that he held discussions with Mr Aziz shortly before the hostages were put on a plane back to France. In an interview last Wednesday, M Cheysson, notable for his careful ambiguity, pointed out: "I meet whom I choose, besides, if I did meet Mr Aziz, I fail to see what there would have been."

Meanwhile, with public support for the involvement of French troops in a Gulf war declining sharply in a new opinion poll, the government has made clear the limits of its support for present American strategy. In an apparent signal to the Bush administration, M Dumas has given a warning that France remains firmly opposed to any "unilateral action against Iraq" that has not been sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

That message, delivered before the National Assembly on Thursday, will be underlined in the talks between President Mitterrand and M Baker. Observers here believe that France is intent on imposing stringent conditions before agreeing to support American efforts to get a security council resolution that clears the way for an attack on Iraqi forces.

According to some reports, the French are opposed to any such resolution being put forward until later this month, in order to allow President Saddam Hussein one last opportunity to pull out of Kuwait.

To judge by yesterday's poll in *Le Figaro*, the public is fast losing its taste for French military involvement if the shooting starts. While a narrow majority still feels a Gulf war is inevitable, there was a seven-point increase, to 52 per cent, in the number of those now opposed to any participation by their own troops.

Support for French "solidarity" with the objectives of the US and Britain has declined by roughly the same percentage since an identical poll was taken two months ago.



Flying visit: Douglas Hurd, James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Margaret Thatcher meeting at Downing Street yesterday for talks on the Gulf confrontation. Mr Baker, who flew in from Moscow, was not optimistic the Iraqis would quit Kuwait peacefully.

US troop build-up sends ultimatum to Baghdad

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHARAHAN

THE announcement by Washington that it is ordering between 150,000 and 200,000 more United States servicemen to the Gulf has effectively given Iraq an ultimatum. President Bush has clearly warned President Saddam Hussein that there will be an allied offensive to drive his troops from Kuwait in late January or February unless they are withdrawn.

Mr Bush's message was underscored yesterday when Richard Cheney, his defence secretary, indicated that the new deployment meant that plans for rotating troops in the Gulf had been abandoned.

The new deployment, which also involves aircraft, warships and hundreds more tanks, is needed to transform the present 230,000-strong US military presence from a defensive to an offensive force capable of taking on the 430,000 Iraqi troops now entrenched in or near Kuwait. Mr Cheney said the deployment would be completed some time after January 1, but the new troops would require a week or so for acclimatisation and preparation.

"November 17 was until recently the most popular bet for an attack, because it will be a moonless night. But people are now looking more towards early next year," a military source in Saudi Arabia said.

As in all public debates about war, an element of disinformation must be allowed for. There are even those in Egypt convinced that Mr Bush's Thanksgiving trip to the Saudi desert in two weeks' time is a clever blind to lull the Iraqis into complacency.

The immediate task now is to secure the United Nations resolution authorising the use of force for which Mr Baker has been preparing the ground during his current tour of Arab and European capitals. This must be done before the end of the month, when Security Council presidency to Yemen, one of the few countries sympathetic to Iraq.

The new deployment will halve American strength in Germany and nearly double the size of US forces in the Gulf, giving Washington as many troops there as it maintained in Europe at the height of the Cold War. Total US strength will be roughly 400,000, not including 100,000 allied and Arab forces. At the peak, 543,000 servicemen were deployed in Vietnam.

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The 1st and 3rd Armoured Divisions, a brigade-sized unit of

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Bridging the Jewish divide

Clifford Longley

Jonathan Sacks has long been admired by the few who know him as a source of fresh and different thinking in Anglo-Jewry, an unexpected push in the opposite direction to the way things are generally moving. Far from this putting them off, the United Hebrew Congregations, to which the majority of practising Jews in Britain belong, have elected him to be their next Chief Rabbi in succession to Lord Jakobovits when he retires next year. Before that election, the BBC already had him in mind for the 1990 Reith Lectures, and he begins them next Wednesday on Radio 4.

The lectures will come as a surprise to those who have not yet encountered this educated and sophisticated mind. For generational reasons, prominent rabbis in Britain tend to seem slightly foreign in accent and style, with personal perspectives to match. If over 60, they bear the stigma of the Holocaust, in mind or body, or both. Their presence in Britain has been a unique grace to the entire culture, not just to their own, but they are growing old. The leadership of Britain's 300,000 Jews has now to return to the homespun of former years, and Dr Sacks, 42 and London-born, is there to prove it. He is very Jewish, but could not be more British.

He is in the tradition of Jewish intellectuals of the middle ground, which does not mean unexciting. But if the centre of gravity of British Jewry has not shifted in the last few decades, its extremes have been moving asunder and are now almost as far apart as it is possible to imagine. The rise of ultra-orthodoxy and the retreat into strict observance and separation has coincided with the extreme of "assimilation" represented by a virtual mass defection from Jewish ranks. These responses to the modern, secular world are so contradictory as to suggest a split in the Jewish personality.

Dr Sacks, on the other hand, stands for the possibility of reconciliation, for again making whole the two halves. He has assimilated to the degree that he has absorbed most of what the modern world has to offer (not excluding a double first from Cambridge), yet he also sets the protection of Jewish custom and tradition and the advancement of its culture as the higher priority. He is, above all, a philosopher, which not only gives him a love of precision in meaning but also a rare depth to his understanding of religion. And it is the philosophical credentials of Judaism that are most in need of attention, the rediscovery of an intellectually honest ground for belief in God.

The perceived lack of it has driven many a young Jew to abandon the faith and practice of his parents, and even inside the synagogues there are some Jews who dare not examine their own doubts. Jewishness has been reduced, more often than some care

William J. Bennett, who resigned this week as director of the American Office of National Drug Control Policy, favoured capital punishment for drug dealers. So do a majority of the members of both houses of Congress. In September, the police chief of Los Angeles, testifying before a Senate committee, suggested that those "who blast some pot on a casual basis" should be "taken out and shot".

We in the United States have embraced a grandiose and one-dimensional approach to illicit drug use. We cast the drug problem solely in moral terms, reject all policy distinctions between types of drugs and users and press other nations to follow our lead. Britain can and should avoid our mistakes and develop a policy that has more hope of minimising the harm to users and society caused by compulsive drug use.

Execution is not, of course the only weapon in the American war on drugs. Congress has given President Bush more than \$10 billion (£5 billion) for 1991 to provide more crime-fighters in the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI, larger drug

squads in big-city police departments, and a pristine for treatment and prevention programmes. At the local level we are beefing up police patrols while cutting other services (New York City) and hitting taxpayers with regressive surtaxes to pay for drug enforcement programmes (Kansas City).

Rhetorical weapons are popular, too. Bennett once said: "Should we have drug education programmes or should we have tough policy? If we have the choice of only one, I will take law enforcement policy every time because I know children."

So drug-control efforts in America are both narrow and absolutist, unashamedly repressive. Although unlikely to make even modest progress towards reducing the social and economic costs of drug abuse, they nevertheless foster corruption, erode civil liberties, marginalise the young, the poor and the black, and waste taxpayers' dollars. Imprisoning hundreds of thousands of drug abusers has failed to stem the supply of illegal drugs. But this approach is now so entrenched that it is hard to see how we can correct it.

Britain, too, is relying increasingly on the crime-control approach to drugs, retreating from the medical approach to heroin addiction that was dominant before the 1980s. British policy is sometimes influenced by American wrong-headedness. The inclusion of life sentences in the Controlled Drugs Penalties Act of 1985 mimics American sentencing patterns. On returning from a visit to America earlier this year, David Waddington, the Home Secretary, praised the lengths to which Americans have gone to confiscate the assets of drug dealers, and urged equal zeal in Britain.

But an American-style war on drugs would make the situation worse, depleting resources that could otherwise go toward treatment and prevention of towards altering the conditions of life that make drug-taking and drug-selling a way of life in many poor areas. Indeed it would probably make those neighbourhoods more dangerous, as dealers protected themselves against increasingly violent efforts to stamp them out. And such a war might actually stimulate drug production, for successful drug seizures add to demand and keep profits high.

Professional practice in Britain has not completely capitulated to the American way. On a recent trip to London and Merseyside I found humane and sensible public health strategies with realistic goals for reduction of the harm caused by compulsive drug-taking. Needle-exchange programmes have contributed to keeping the Aids infection rate low in Merseyside compared with other regions.

There, the continuing practice of maintaining some users on heroin has helped them to live productive, sealed lives and lowered the incidence of acquiescent crime in the area. But most of all I was impressed by the flexibility of doctors, youth workers and researchers, promising more subtle and varied drug policies than are dreamt of in the American philosophy.

They acknowledged that policy must develop a variety of strategies for different types of drugs and users. Their "harm reduction" approach recognises that not all users are addicts, that not all addicts or recreational users want to stop, and that not all drug use is problematic, either for the user or for society. They are prepared to

take their clients as they find them, helping them become drug-free if they wish it and, if they do not, guiding them to safer drug use.

Such an approach leads logically to decriminalisation, at least of marijuana, punishment for use or sale of which is surely a waste of police time and money and a counterproductive labelling of the young.

Those I talked to, however, generally do not accept the free-market strategy that would legalise all drugs and ignore the social contexts in which compulsive drug use is most common. They see the need to link legalisation to larger efforts to address poverty and instability, alienation and boredom.

The blunt message from America is that those befooled by a miasma of drugs and deprivation, whether users or dealers, should be repressed rather than rescued. There is still time for Britain to reject this brutal message. The Home Secretary should stay at home and heed his own innovators and researchers.

The author is a political science professor at the City College, City University of New York.

Drugs: put rescue before repression

John Curtice believes the Bradford by-election result shows government fortunes still on a downward track

The results of the Bradford North and Boote by-elections will do nothing to ease the Tory leadership crisis. They confirm that what little ground the party recovered during the summer has largely been lost. But the results also contain warnings for both opposition parties.

The 2.2 point drop in the Conservative vote in Bradford North enters the record books. Although not quite the largest fall in the Conservative vote in a modern by-election — Sutton and Cheam, Richmond and Greenwich are all bigger (see table) — it is the largest post-war fall in the Conservative vote in a seat successfully defended by Labour. Tory by-election disasters can usually be put down to a strong third-party challenge. Tory voters flock to the Liberal Democrats either because they are the most effective way of registering mid-term protest, or because they offer the chance of getting rid of Labour locally. But in Bradford the Tory vote collapsed despite there never being any prospect of a Liberal Democratic victory.

True, the seat has had a rather unusual electoral history. Although it is usually regarded as a Labour marginal, this gives a misleading impression. The Conservatives have won it only once, in 1983, when the Labour vote was split. Defeated Labour MP Ben Ford stood against the Militant-sympathising Pat Wall, and the Labour vote slumped by 20 points.

Furthermore, in 1987 the Tory incumbent, Geoff Lawler, managed to increase his party's vote by five points when he would have done well to hold on to his 1983 vote, given what was happening in the rest of West Yorkshire. With the Labour vote then reunited around Pat Wall, this strong Tory showing was not quite good enough to deny Labour victory, but it did mean that Joy Atkin, the Tory candidate defeated on

Thursday, had an unusually strong record to match.

But even compared to the 1983 vote, the Tory showing this week still looks very poor: the drop of 17.6 points is almost as great as that in the Mid-Staffordshire disaster last March and the vote was nine points lower even than in the local elections in May.

Boote was not quite so bad. The Conservatives' share of the vote held steady compared with the previous by-election in the seat in May. More important psychologically, the party retained second place, ahead of the Liberal Democrats. But the result still represented a fall of 11 points below the general election figure. This is a seat where the Tory vote had already fallen substantially in 1983 and 1987 — and even though the Conservative loss last month in the very similar nearby seat of Knowsley South was only six points.

These results suggest two conclusions. Conservative support has fallen back again in the last month. And electorally the party is now back to where it was during last spring's poll-tax fracas. Further evidence comes from the latest BBC poll of polls, which gives the Conservatives 32 per cent — four points down on the end of September and only two points better than last April.

The Liberal Democrats' achievement in coming second in Bradford will enable them to maintain the momentum created by their Eastbourne success. Further, with the Greens now scoring only 1 or 2 per cent in by-elections, the Liberal Democrats' mastery of the centre vote in England is undisputed. But there is still a question mark over the depth of their revival.

In both Eastbourne and Bradford, local factors were working in their favour. The Liberal Democrats have vied for control of Eastbourne council for 20 years, and although in Bradford they only have two councillors, their by-election candidate, David

Ward, was one of them. Additionally, his ward is part of the Bradford North constituency, and in securing local election twice he managed to win a ward that other Liberal Democrat and Alliance candidates have failed to win. He entered the by-election with a local personal vote already established.

In Boote there was no local strength to build on — and there was no sign of any revival. The Liberal Democrat vote even

slipped back slightly on last May and the party did no better than in Knowsley South in September. Also, the party now faces the task of maintaining its momentum in the two vacant Paisley seats (both being contested on November 29), where the Scottish Nationalists have a far stronger local presence than the Liberal Democrats.

For Labour the results at both Boote and Bradford North are undoubtedly encouraging — but they also suggest a measure of

Fall in Tory % vote since previous general election

Dec 72 Sutton & Cheam	26.2
Feb 89 Richmond*	24.0
Feb 87 Greenwich	23.8
Nov 90 Bradford N	22.8
Mar 82 Orpington	21.9
Jul 81 Warrington	21.7
Dec 88 Epping Forest*	21.4
Jun 82 Middlesbrough W	21.2
Jul 85 Brecon & Radnor	20.5

Table includes only constituencies fought by Conservative, Labour and Liberal/Alliance/Liberal Democrat at both by-election and previous general election. *SDP and Liberal Democrat candidates stood at by-election.

caution. The party did well to add three points to its previous by-election vote in Boote. Labour has now increased its share of the vote in five of the six by-elections held this year, which adds up to its most consistent success since 1971. But the nine-point increase in Bradford is well below its 17-point advance in the latest national opinion poll: Labour's share of the vote was just one point higher than at the 1979 general election.

This suggests that the Liberal Democrats have taken votes from Labour as well as the Conservatives. A significant section of Labour's support is still "soft" and could potentially be won away if the Liberal Democrats continue to flourish.

These by-election results clearly confirm the depth of Conservative troubles. The party's position is worsening rather than improving, whereas at the same stage in the last parliament, in the autumn of 1986, it was on the road to recovery. And in 1982, the afterglow of the Falklands war was still visible. With the Treasury's forecast on Thursday that economic growth will resume only in the second half of next year, the odds on a spring election are clearly lengthening.

There are of course two important jokers left in the pack. One is the Gulf, the other is the possibility of leadership change. As Tory MPs contemplate the message from Bradford and Boote this weekend, a few more may be persuaded of the need to play the latter card.

The author is senior lecturer in politics at Strathclyde University.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Democracy among Tory MPs, as Julian Critchley has explained, is the system under which the common will is least likely to emerge. Events of the past week prove it.

Half the Tory backbenchers you talk to subject you to a private baraguge about how much nicer it would be if Mrs Thatcher could be surgically removed and somebody cuddly put in her place quickly, before the next election.

"But would you vote that way?" one asks.

"On the second ballot, yes," they reply.

"What about the first ballot?"

"Ah." We could summarise the problem as the *firstballot* dilemma. How to get from here to the second ballot without passing through a first ballot on the way. The crocodile has been goaded into the shallow water, but who is to stick in the knife? The first lunge might not kill: she might make it back into the deep water; her teeth are sharp and her memory is long. Legs could subsequently be bitten. So they all stand gingerly by the edge of the pool, muttering about "loyalty" as the sharp-toothed one thrashes around on the mud bank.

It was not always thus. As Mr Critchley — again — explains, before the advent of democracy in the Tory party, the leader was not voted for, but born. Grey men in grey suits are the midwives at this birth. Word got around that the lads were restless; the lads were privately consulted in the Commons Smoking Room; the object of their predominant affection was told of his new job; and the existing leader was asked which title took his fancy for the Lords.

Now it has all changed. Now you have to put your head above the parapet before the gunfire has stopped, and that's a very unfair thing to ask a Tory MP to do.

But here I part company with Mr Critchley. He, I think, would like to go back to the old system, but nostalgia is pointless. There is no way we can revert. Whatever its democratic credentials may in practice be, the old way could never be

explained to schoolchildren at GCSE.

Is it reasonable to accept the existing system but ask the MPs to be braver? If they were brave they would not be MPs. An MP has been selected, elected and promoted for his circumspection. All his political life he has been punished for any tendency to say things that elements of his audience may not wish to hear. To offer — at so senior a stage in our greying and considered privy council's career — so tempting a reward for the very behaviour for which the voters, constituency associations and government whips have been punishing him since the day he entered Parliament, with a series of horrid little electric shocks, is actually quite cruel and under laboratory conditions has been shown to induce personality disorders in mice.

By contrast, my own proposals go with the Pavlovian grain. I shall start with the more modest. At present it is up to the prospective candidate to decide whether or not to stand. He lets his name go forward. Why? That attracts unnecessary odium. Why not enter the name of anyone who has been proposed and seconded, regardless of whether he says to run. We know he wants to run.

My second proposal goes further. Voting among MPs for the leadership is by secret ballot, and that is as it should be. You vote as you please, see who wins, then let it be discreetly known that this was your choice. Too. The cloak of anonymity protects the voter. Why, then, deny the candidate that cloak? Why can't Tories stand anonymously for the leadership?

I can guess what you are thinking, but you are wrong. In the first ballot, MPs do not need to know whom they are voting for; they only need to know whom they are *not* voting for. The ballot paper would say "1: Mrs Thatcher; 2: Not Mrs Thatcher; 3: Another Not Mrs Thatcher... etc". If No 1 did not gain an overall majority there would be a second ballot and numbers 2, 3 etc (who would have been voted for randomly) would be invited to say who they were. If we hadn't guessed already.

Greater love hath no man

The charity Refugee Year has received what it terms a "positive response" from Baghdad to a suggestion that nuns and priests of all denominations should replace hostages in Iraq.

Refugee Year — patron, Mother Teresa of Calcutta — has asked members of the clergy to volunteer as replacements for the civilians in the potential war zone. "We are particularly asking missionary priests and nuns with specialist medical skills to come forward," says Danny Lillis, deputy secretary general of the charity. "Missionaries are trained to go into areas of difficulty. We feel their psyches are better adapted to deal with the strains."

During a visit to Baghdad, Lillis met close aides of Saddam Hussein, including Taza Yassin Ramadhan, deputy prime minister, and Sa'di Mehdi Saleh, speaker of the National Assembly. "I was told they would give the idea serious consideration," he says. Father Kevin Doherty, secretary-general of Refugee Year, who accompanied Lillis, stayed in Baghdad for further negotiations. Lillis returns to Baghdad on Monday, and he and Father Doherty hope to meet Saddam during the week.

Meanwhile, British clerics are already showing their spiritual mettle as word spreads on the ecclesiastical grapevine. "We have received a number of individual approaches," says Lillis, "though we are unlikely to get 3,500 missionaries, which is roughly the number of people held in Iraq. Priority will be given to volunteers with special skills."

Home and away

For the second week running Sheffield Wednesday will today be without the solid support of its best-known cheerleader, Roy Hattersley, bowed down by pressure of work. He has

become such a fixture that last Saturday the Radio 5 commentator on the match against Oldham Athletic remarked that he could not see Hattersley — whom he described as the local MP — in his usual place. Hattersley, who was listening at home, immediately telephoned the studio with the assurance that he was with Wednesday in the spirit, if not the flesh, adding that he in fact represented a Birmingham constituency. A few minutes later David Blunkett telephoned to say that he too was listening, and that he was the local MP.

Blunkett must have wished he had not bothered. The match commentary ended with the words: "We have been asked to point out that the local MP is not Roy Hattersley, it's David Blunkett." Palumbo's army

Peter Palumbo's version of a garden gnome is understandably grander than that of other men. The Arts Council chairman has paid £31,000 for a modern sculpture for the grounds of his Berkshire home that consists of 1,100 steel seed figures, painted bright red.

هذا من الممكن

The device, a spokeswoman for the museum explains, may be considered a legitimate part of London history. It was introduced in 1983 to answer a problem that goes back five centuries. Records reveal that in 1479 a petition was presented to the Common Council by residents of Thames Street complaining of the carters blocking the streets of Billingsgate and praying that the nuisance be abated with new regulations.

The museum staff, however, retain their sense of proportion. The clamp is accurately labelled "an instrument of torture".

Hawke to dove

There's nothing like a threat to one's pocket — or the prospect of filling it — to encourage the burying of hatchets. It is a long time since Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, had a kind word to say for Mrs Thatcher. But his reaction to her stand on EC farm subsidies could hardly be bettered by the most fervent Euro-basher on the far right of the Tory party.

In a radio interview this week he said: "I've had my differences with Margaret Thatcher, but it would indeed be churlish of me if I didn't acknowledge the very considerable commitment she has shown. She has been first rate..." Given that Australia has vast amounts of butter and lamb that it cannot sell because EC over-production and dumping is pricing it out of world markets, Hawke is bound to support the Thatcher line. But all who remember how bitterly the two leaders clashed at the 1989 Commonwealth conference over sanctions against



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JUSTICE FOR CRIMINALS

Whisper it not in Pinner, but the government's criminal justice bill, published yesterday, is designed to stop judges putting burglars in prison. In future, statutory guidelines will lay down that imprisonment should be imposed only when the offence is "so serious" or the danger of "serious harm" to the public so great, that only prison will do. Moreover, judges are to take far less account of the offender's past record. Locking up the habitual burglar will become far harder. And fines are to be related for the first time to the offender's income, so that the jails will be less crowded with those who will not pay because they cannot.

Since this is a Tory government David Waddington, the home secretary, had of course to pretend otherwise. He described the new policy as "a more coherent legislative framework for sentencing". The tough side of the bill's twin-track approach to sentencing was much to the fore. As promised, the powers of the courts to impose long sentences on violent and sexual offenders are reinforced. Remission is abolished; parole limited. Punishment in the community is to be strengthened with the new penalty of curfew, enforced by electronic tagging operated by private security guards. Magistrates will be able to impose fines of up to £5,000 and to penalise the parents of offending juveniles. If and when Mr Waddington rises next year again to appear at the law-and-order mob at the Conservative party conference, he will have plenty of ammunition.

Yet this is a bill that offers more, on balance, to liberal reformers than to their opponents. No doubt, money played its part in this. To keep a criminal in jail costs £300 a week. This is, in effect, a state subsidy to the burglar to perfect his craft with expert tuition from his fellows.

The government is faced with a policy dilemma. Ridding the prisons of their Dickensian squalor has become imperative. Over the past 15 years, they have become the most riot-prone in the West. Successive surges of violence, which swept through 18 jails on a single night in 1986, have focused attention on

living conditions. This week's report by Judge Tumaini on Armley jail in Leeds was the most severe indictment by a prison inspector in modern times.

Imperative too is the need to economise at the Home Office. No responsible government could continue lavish spending on the police, and on jails, without a scrap of evidence that crime is thereby being prevented. The alternatives to the measures in the bill are more violence in prison, more suicides, more human degradation and more expenditure, with no discernible advantage to the wider community.

Parliament, however, has scope to improve on what the home secretary has begun. One set of proposals ought to be rejected. Parents of juveniles may be fined if their youngster's offences can be blamed on them. This is the kind of proposal that makes perfect sense to middle-class ministers who generally leave the taming of adolescence to their children's boarding schools. For, say, the single mother in Brixton, struggling against odds to keep a young person on track, they represent only a threat. Many such parents will be tempted to wash their hands of their responsibilities. Parental influence – the last, best hope of deflecting the youngster from a life of crime – will be removed. The magistrates do not want these powers. Parliament should not force them to have them.

Another provision ought to be added. The guidelines, though an improvement, still give the judges considerable discretion. Much depends on how the appeal court interprets them. All this is hazardous. The transmission mechanism between parliament, home office and the judiciary is creaky and ineffective. Judges are notoriously their own creatures, disengaged through long exercise of power to heed outside influence. Penal reformers, now backed by the Labour party, have long advocated the creation of a sentencing council. Representing all interested parties, its job would be to formulate detailed guidance on sentencing for the courts. Justice demands no less.

HERE'S TO YOU

Mary Robinson's triumph in the Irish presidential elections marks a watershed in Ireland's political culture. The presidency has little power, but that does not diminish the significance of her win. Hers is a victory of probity against the pork barrel, of individual merit against the cosy intimacy of a political élite which is divided into two major parties founded in a civil war 70 years ago. She has given hope that Ireland is ready for change.

Much of Mrs Robinson's importance lies in the simple fact that she beat an old Fianna Fail warhorse, Brian Lenihan, the favourite until late in the campaign. Dublin's political club, which just about admits women providing they do not aspire to run anything, had not intended Mr Lenihan to come under any serious threat. She was helped by the fact that shortly before the elections, Mr Lenihan was caught telling quite unnecessary lies and his old friend, the prime minister, Charles Haughey, was compelled to drop him from the cabinet to keep his fragile coalition on the road. Even so, Mr Haughey campaigned for him energetically. In choosing Mrs Robinson the voters have made a clear protest against the indulgent attitude to political misdemeanours which has prevailed in the past.

The republic's two leading figures now illustrate the contrast between past and future. Mr Haughey is a veteran exponent of a traditional nationalism, long on rhetorical appeals to "Irish values" and short on specific ways to achieve the unification of north and south. Mrs Robinson, by contrast, breaks almost every rule in Ireland's book. She is a working mother, an ex-member of the tiny Labour party, in favour of contraception and publicly available information on abortion and openly sympathetic to Ulster unionism.

Little wonder that Mr Haughey muttered "dangerous nonsense" on hearing that she favoured an activist presidency. Given the

constitutional constraints on the president, Mrs Robinson's activism will have to be largely intellectual. She has already thrown out dozens of fresh ideas and should continue to do so. Her election suggests that she may be sowing radical thoughts in more fertile ground than has been imagined. Ireland's politics, society and culture have been shot through with the influences of a conservative countryside. A more secular and more pluralist generation in the east of the country has been denied a strong political voice. Now those reforming influences – whose efforts are currently concentrated on liberalising laws on contraception, abortion, homosexuality and divorce – have a spokeswoman at the top. Greater separation of law and church, essential to a modern society, could eventually be on the cards.

At the least, standards in public life should improve. Mrs Robinson is a lawyer of international repute who is unlikely to stay silent if rules are bent. She also enjoys the huge advantage of being associated with neither of the major parties.

Mrs Robinson left the only party with which she had been connected in circumstances which hint at the most profound impact which she might yet make. She resigned from the Labour party over the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement because she considered it unfair to the north's one million unionists. This suggests a politician who is serious about understanding unionist fears and who would make the reconciliation of the nationalist and unionist traditions, of which so many Irish politicians talk endlessly, a practical priority.

Her position dictates that she must work with people, not with parties and programmes, to change attitudes. In a country where party politicians, in north and south, have been less than triumphantly successful at ridding Ireland of mistrust and hatred, that is all to the good.

RABBIT DROPPINGS

Last year, Americans were flourishing Paul Kennedy's *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* as evidence of their country's imminent decline. Now, it seems, a work of fiction has taken over as the favourite symbol of doom. The last of John Updike's tetralogy of novels about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, *Rabbit at Rest*, has been excoriated by critics as too savage a metaphor for America's moral slippage. An editorial in the *New York Times* came to Rabbit's rescue, claiming that these criticisms were "excessive" and said "more about discontent with the American self than they say about the novel".

Current American literary fashion favours the minimalist novel, a day in the life of an East Coast academic or a Greenwich Village artist. But once every few years, a broad-brush novel appears from a famous author – Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*, the *Rabbit* books – and tends to be taken literally, as if it were a mirror to the woes of society. Mr Updike's mirror reflects a decade, the Eighties, which he deplores. "Everything falling apart, airplanes, bridges, eight years under Reagan of nothing, trusting in God."

Why does America care so much for books as the mirror, straight or distorting, in which its society can be seen? Why does Britain care so little? Americans are more reverential towards their prizewinning authors. When Martin Amis writes about the inevitability of nuclear annihilation few British readers take him seriously. They are perhaps more attuned to irony, to satire. British readers of *Bonfire of the Vanities*, recognising Mr Wolfe's caricature, are surprised when much of his fiction comes true on New York's streets.

Britons, too, tend to rely more on other art forms for their social comment. British cinema is more political than America's. Hollywood finds that fantasy and escapism sell more

tickets. The British also describe their society better on the stage than in novels: John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, first seen in 1956, is perhaps the best parallel to *Bonfire* or the *Rabbit* books. Written as an antidote to the genteel, or gentlemanly, style of Terence Rattigan, *Look Back in Anger* opened up the British stage to the raw feelings and frustrations of a new generation. Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, tried to send up the Eighties, but the joke backfired. The play proved most successful with the City louts it scorned.

The panoramic social novel used to be more popular in Britain. George Eliot was a household name. Dickens excelled at social comment, and became a hero himself as writer and family man (which is perhaps why he kept his mistress so secret). Yet Dickens' novels were adored at the time not for their dig at Victorian society, but for their rumbustious characters. The Britons love Pickwick just as they love Falstaff, or for that matter Pooch Bear or Billy Bunter, fat clowns all. Asked what 20th-century books sum up their country, Britons are more likely to opt for middle-class childhood nostalgia – *Wind in the Willows*, perhaps, or *Swallows and Amazons* – than Margaret Drabble or Graham Greene.

The British are simply less interested in their national identity than Americans. They are reluctant to define Britishness, and less concerned to map the contours that are shaped on their identity by world events. Americans are almost all immigrants, and want to distinguish what it is that makes them American from the part of them that is German, Irish, Vietnamese or Mexican. Moreover, America is still relatively new, while this country has been around for so long that the British simply feel rather than think British. Perhaps that is why they retreat to whimsy rather than soul-searching for their bedtime reading.

Seeing Germans as 'one of us'

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, When you describe Chancellor Kohl's recent negotiating manner as even bordering on the insufferable (your leader today), I wonder what standard of comparison you are applying. Insufferable compared with what? With various French moves over the years? With some of Mrs Thatcher's pronouncements and manoeuvres, as seen by Britain's partners? With some of the unilateral actions taken from time to time by US governments?

Has Chancellor Kohl been doing anything more than indulging in the normal behaviour of national leaders trying to pursue national political imperatives within the constraints of an increasingly interdependent world? It is the relatively reticent behaviour of the FRG while Germany was divided which has been subnormal by international standards.

In what was presumably meant to be one of several examples of Herr Kohl's insufferability, you said that he saw Mrs Thatcher off in the spring of 1989 over the modernisation of Lance missiles, which you described as Mrs Thatcher's test of loyalty.

The test might have been reasonable under the old rules of the east-west confrontation; but even those who thought it so in early 1989 ought to be able to appreciate with hindsight that achieving the reunification of Germany and the consequent collapse of the Soviet system in eastern Europe, while keeping Germany in Nato, was bound to eclipse the Lance missile issue. A German could be excused for thinking that it was the loyalty test which was insufferable.

These matters would be much more easily handled if we could all agree at last to regard the Germans as "one of us".

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
174 Queen Alexandra Mansions,
Bridgwater Street, WC1.
November 6.

From Mr Charles L. Parker

Sir, Over the past ten years only two countries out of the EC 12 are "net contributors" to the Common Market and they are Germany and Britain. Our net contributions for the last three years have been: £1,721 million (1987); £1,362 million (1988); £1,966 million (1989). The contributions since 1979 have been a staggering £11,388 million.

So much for the tough talking of Mrs Thatcher.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES L. PARKER,
2 Windsor Court,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.
November 1.

Ridley on EMU

From Mr P. H. Rollason

Sir, The disadvantage of a single European currency, according to Nicholas Ridley ("Two-speed with Britain in the lead", November 3) is that those who cannot compete with Germany's productivity will have to eat their wages. He also infers that, should we retain our own currency, we would be able to adjust the exchange rate to keep our industries competitive, presumably by devaluing the pound. In both instances there is a cut in the value of the wages received. So what is the difference?

The outstanding advantage of a single currency would be that savings accumulated during a lifetime of work and the pension earned would retain their value, giving an opportunity for the elderly to maintain their standard of living to the end of their lives. This is an opportunity which has not existed whilst successive governments have demonstrated their inability to control inflation and maintain the value of the pound despite having total control of the Bank of England and the exchange rate adjustment.

I would feel more comfortable with an escu in my pocket assuming, as does Mr Ridley, that its value was controlled by the Bundesbank whose care for the value of the Deutschmark far exceeds that of our own various governments' efforts with the pound.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. ROLLASON,
Olde Forge Cottage, The Common,
Worsters, Surrey.
November 4.

Hunting on Trust land

From the Executive Director of the League Against Cruel Sports

Sir, Sir Richard Acland (November 6) displays an extraordinary fit of pique in his reaction to the members of the National Trust voting to ban the hunting of deer on Trust land. He claims that in one year, stag hunts tracked down and "put out of pain", 57 injured deer – many of which had "gangrenous" wounds inflicted with magots, their bellies gnawed by rats and their eyes pecked out by jackdaws".

I would remind Sir Richard that it is we "ants" who are supposed to use the emotive language – not the hardened "realists" of the hunting set.

For years stag hunters have been telling us that it is the existence of hunting which prevents poachers and farmers taking pot-shots at the deer. It seems from his 57 injured deer that the hunters' claims have been false. We have also repeatedly been told that the hunters are the conservationists. Now we are being told

Christian dilemma on 'just war'

From the Secretary General of the General Synod of the Church of England

Sir, The House of Bishops of the Church of England did not at its recent meeting find itself "so far from agreement that no statement [on the Gulf crisis] was possible" (Clifford Longley's article, November 3). The great majority of the House felt simply that no statement was needed.

They took the view that in such a highly complex situation, a statement by them at that time would have added little to what had already been said by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the House of Lords on September 6 and by other church leaders on the issue.

But they did endorse a call by the archbishops of Canterbury and York for prayer for peace in the Gulf, a call which would surely welcome but, which seems to have gone largely unnoticed by the bishops' critics.

I hope that your readers and commentators will show some understanding of the bishops' dilemma. On this occasion, they have been criticised by some for their failure to pronounce. Or others, they have only to open their collective mouth to attract equal criticism. On both types of occasion the impartial observer might be forgiven for thinking that the criticisms say more about the preoccupations of those who utter them than they do about the shortcomings of the bishops.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MAWER,
Secretary General,
The General Synod of the
Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.
November 6.

From the President of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Sir, Instead of "going by the Aquinas book", as Clifford Longley suggests, could we not go back even further, and go by the New Testament book? We should ask ourselves how the "just war" idea arose in the first place.

For its first 300 years' existence the church had to endure the most frightful persecution, with frequent systematic attempts by the Roman state to exterminate it completely. When, at the end of

Patience in the Gulf

From Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, FBA

Sir, Despite repeating his sensible warning that to go to war with Iraq without UN blessing would be deeply divisive, Sir Michael Howard now advises (article, November 5) that "on balance Bush must go to war".

He makes two assertions in support of his case: the policy of economic sanctions has not been thought through, and within a year the blockade will be leaking like a sieve. The fact is that the policy has never been tested when applied, as now, universally; and there is no compelling reason for concluding now that it will not succeed. Nothing will be lost if we give it more time.

The huge cost of moving forces to the Gulf has already been incurred. It will be hardly more expensive to keep them there than to have them training at home or in Europe; and considerably more realistic.

There is no shortage of oil and no threat of a shortage. On the other hand, the strain on Iraq will be enormous, and it cannot be more than marginally reduced by attempts to break the blockade.

Such attempts will be made, and

three long and terrible centuries, the Roman emperor himself. Constantine, became converted to Christianity, the battered church found itself presented with what seemed like a golden opportunity to use the power of the state to extend Christ's kingdom throughout the world.

This was, in fact, the same temptation which came to Christ himself in the wilderness, when the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus resisted the temptation totally. The church, when it turned came to be similarly tempted, however, was totally unable to resist. Since then, it has never again been able to take the way of the Cross seriously.

Soon after this temptation, when the church became fully aware of the total contradiction between the exercise of worldly power through the state, and commitment to the spiritual power of Christ's love, it found itself in a terrible dilemma.

In an attempt to escape from this dilemma, first Augustine sought to adapt the pagan idea of "iustum bellum" to a Christian application, and the theory of a just war was born. Centuries later, when the church had long come to terms with worldly necessities imposed as a result of collaboration with the state, Aquinas set out to elaborate the theory in exact detail.

Despite this attempt to wriggle out of the dilemma caused by trying to reconcile worldly power with the power of love, the church has always been uneasily aware of the contradiction between war and the way of Christ, as witness, for example, the frequently repeated resolution of successive Lambeth conferences since 1930: "War, as a method of settling international disputes, is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Even more to the point was the 1978 Lambeth resolution that "the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel".

Yours faithfully,
GORDON WILSON, President,
Anglican Pacifist Fellowship,
4 Byron Close,
Hampton, Middlesex.
November 4.

Efforts will continue to negotiate a compromise retreat from the UN's resolutions

It can do no harm to start listing and numbering them as they are detected.

But since the credibility of the Security Council is the most serious potential casualty of the crisis for everybody in the long run, the attempts may well die out if it is made plain that some states are determined to uphold it without resorting to force unless they are attacked.

Yours sincerely,
F. H. HINSLY,
St John's College, Cambridge.
November 5.

From Miss Barbara G. Oakley

Sir, With the news that Mr Bush's patience is wearing thin (report, November 1) one can but hope his advisers know and have pointed out to him the old bedouin proverb quoted by Bruce Chatwin in his book, *The Songlines*: I against my brother, I and my brother against our cousin, I, my brother and our cousin against the neighbours, All of us against the foreigner. Yours faithfully,

BARBARA G. OAKLEY,
The Little Priory, Kimpton,
Hertfordshire.
November 1.

Hostages' wives

From Mr Robert G. Matley

Sir, Of course, Sir John Stokes is correct. Since 1980, I have spent a month each year in the Middle East and frequently discussed the political situation with British expatriates. All, whether in Jordan or Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, have been aware of the risks



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: His Excellency Professor George Kirya was received by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion, The King's Royal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Amiel had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion.

Major-General Peter Davies, Col. The King's Royal Regiment and Colonel Ian Paterson, Honorary Colonel, 5th/8th Battalion, also had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 9: The Prince of Wales visited the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution at Church House, Great Smith Street, SW1.

Commander Richard Aylard, RN and Mr Gerald Ward were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales received the Prime Minister of St Lucia (the Right Hon John Compton MP), Karen Armstrong.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Heathrow Airport, London, this evening for an official visit to Japan.

The following were present and took leave of Their Royal Highnesses Air Commodore John Langer (representing Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London), His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador (Makoto Chiba) and Madame Chiba, and Mr Robin Baxendale (Manager, Special Facilities, Heathrow Airport).

Mrs Anne Beckwith-Smith, Mr Peter Westmacott, Mr Guy Salter, Commander Alastair Watson, RN, Richard Attlee and Surgeon-Captain Anthony Osborne, RN, are in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: The Princess Royal today visited Devon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Devon (the Earl of Morley).

Her Royal Highness attended a seminar on "Educational Development in the Third World" at the college of St Mark and St John Foundation, Plymouth.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Sillars, RN was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Honorary Member of the International Council for Bird Preservation, this evening attended a reception in support of the Rare Bird Club at Windsor Castle.

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Afterwards, The Princess Royal attended the Royal Highness Patron, the Butler Trust, visited HM Prison, Channings Wood, Denbury.

This evening The Princess Royal, Chief Commander, Women's Royal Naval Service, attended a WRNS Officers' Dinner at HMS COLLINGWOOD, Fareham, Hampshire. Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE November 9: Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Grant Haworth today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Regiment upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Graeme McDonald had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Hislop had the honour of being

in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this evening received Mrs Susan Cane on relinquishing the appointment as Chairman of Baby Life Support Systems at Kensington Palace.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness was present at the Rainbow Ball in aid of the British Dyslexia Association at the Intercontinental Hotel, Hamilton Place, London, W1.

Mr Evan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

November 9: The Duke and Duchess of Kent arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt this evening.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE November 9: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy attended by the Lady Mary Mumford, arrived at Gatwick Airport - London, this morning from Hong Kong.

ham College, Cambridge, 84; Dame Frances Couched, former director, WRAC, 86; Sir John Davis, former president, Royal Organization, 84; Mr Frank Durr, racehorse trainer, 64; Mr Roger Farnance, chief executive, Electricity Council, 57; Mr Don Henderson, actor, 58; Sir Giles Loder, a former vice-president, Royal Horticultural Society, 76; The Right Rev Lawrence Lumsden, former Bishop of Brechin and Friend of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, 82; Dr Eric Radnor, 62; Mr Tim Rice, lyricist and broadcaster, 46; Professor Elizabeth Robson, geneticist, 62; Viscount Runciman of Doxford, 56; Sir William Ryne, civil servant, 62; Mr Madron Seligman, MEP, 72; Sir David Serpell, civil servant, 79; Sir Alfred Sherman, co-founder, Centre for Policy Studies, 71; Mrs Ann Spokes Symonds, vice-president, Age Concern England, 65; Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley, 62.

TOMORROW: Mr Harry Bramma, director, Royal School of Music, 54; Lord Hesketh, 74; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Crook, 65; Lord Dainton, 87; Sir Arthur Davies, meteorologist, 77; Mr Ross Green, footballer, 69; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, 60; Sir Martin Jacob, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 61; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, 70; Sir Harold Kent, QC, 87; Mr Rodney Liddle, 66; Dr Peter G.A.G. Mitchell, anesthetist, 84; Dr Indraprasad Patel, former director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 66; Mr Richard Rowe, jockey, 31; Mr John Shefield, former chairman, Norcross, 77; Sir Peter Shepherd, architect, 77; General Sir Walter Walker, 78; Miss Jane Whithfield, actress, 65; Lord Wolfsdorf, 63.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Sir Peter Baldwin, civil servant, 68; Mr Robert Carrier, cookery writer and broadcaster, 67; Miss R.L. Cohen, former principal, New-

ham College, Cambridge, 84;

Dame Frances Couched, former director, WRAC, 86; Sir John Davis, former president, Royal Organization, 84; Mr Frank Durr, racehorse trainer, 64; Mr Roger Farnance, chief executive, Electricity Council, 57; Mr Don Henderson, actor, 58; Sir Giles Loder, a former vice-president, Royal Horticultural Society, 76; The Right Rev Lawrence Lumsden, former Bishop of Brechin and Friend of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, 82; Dr Eric Radnor, 62; Mr Tim Rice, lyricist and broadcaster, 46; Professor Elizabeth Robson, geneticist, 62; Viscount Runciman of Doxford, 56; Sir William Ryne, civil servant, 62; Mr Madron Seligman, MEP, 72; Sir David Serpell, civil servant, 79; Sir Alfred Sherman, co-founder, Centre for Policy Studies, 71; Mrs Ann Spokes Symonds, vice-president, Age Concern England, 65; Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley, 62.

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ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Martin Luther, Eisenach, Germany, 1483. Paracelsus, physician, Einsiedeln, Switzerland, 1493. George II, reigning 1727-60. Herrenhausen, Germany, 1683; Sir Jacob Epstein, sculptor, New York, 1880.

Deaths: Richard Chancellor, navigator and trader, Pitsligo Bay, Aberdeenshire, 1556. Catherine II the Great, empress of Russia, 1762-96. Leningrad, 1796; Leonid Brezhnev, president of the Soviet Union, 1977-82, Moscow, 1982.

Henry Morton Stanley met Dr Livingstone at Ujiji, Tanzania (Tanzania), 1871.

TOMORROW: Births: Johann Albert Fabricius, scholar, Leipzig, 1668.

Deaths: Valentine Prinsep, artist, London, 1903; The Allies and Germany signed an armistice at 11am, 1918. The first two minutes silence com-

OBITUARIES

Kenan Tevfig Erim, Turkish archaeologist, has died aged 61. He was born in Istanbul on February 13, 1929.

ON A hot afternoon in south-west Turkey last September a couple of tourists unravelling the marvels of the site of Aphrodisias in Caria stopped to comment on the greatest wonder of all. "How?" they asked, "has this site been so extensively excavated and yet kept so unspoilt?" They had identified one of the most important of Kenan Erim's achievements: the deep affection which he felt for one of the most exciting archaeological sites in Asia Minor inspired not only his 30 years of excavation but also his uniring efforts to conserve and protect the site. This culminated in the expropriation of the whole site by the Turkish government in 1989, and the triumphant inauguration of the newly restored tetrapylon, which marked the entrance to the shrine of Aphrodite.

Kenan Erim brought to his lifetime's work for Aphrodisias a unique combination of gifts. He was born in Istanbul to a family with a long tradition of service to the Ottoman Empire; but he was brought up in Geneva, where his father was working for the League of Nations. After the war the creation of the United Nations took the family to New York where Erim graduated from New York University in 1953 and from Princeton with a PhD in classical archaeology in 1958. His teaching career began at Indiana University, then he returned to New York University to become professor of classics Trilingual in Turkish, French and English, he perfected his Italian during his work on the Princeton excavations in Sicily, where he was responsible for identifying the site under excavation at ancient Morgantina.

As the excavations proceeded, the site rapidly emerged as one of exceptional

KENAN TEVFIG ERIM



drew his attention to the site of Aphrodisias as having been the source of a tradition of sculpture of unusual quality and quantity in the Roman and early Byzantine period. In 1959 he paid his first visit to the site, about 230 kilometres east of Izmir, which had until then been the subject only of brief excavations; and in 1961 he undertook the first of the 30 seasons of excavation which he conducted there under the aegis of New York University.

As the excavations proceeded, the site rapidly

emerged as one of exceptional importance in a large number of areas. What was thought to be an agora turned out to be occupied by an enormous pool, currently being cleared.

The abundant inscriptions have produced new information about the politics and administration of the Empire; they have also revealed personal insights, as in the inscription of Tiberius in which Octavian, the future emperor Augustus, states: "Out of all Asia I have taken this one city for myself". The excellent local marble which bore such texts also provided the mi-

most recently the centre of

the Liberty Medal of New

York City (1986), the rank of

Commander-in-Chief of the Order

of Merit of the Republic of

Italy (1987) and a certificate of

appreciation from the Presi-

dent of Turkey last month.

The initiative, and the responsibility, however, always rested with him; and his premature death must reflect some of the stress which that imposed. Aphrodisias was his whole life; and he sometimes found it hard to tolerate those whom he saw as not sufficiently committed to the great work.



MAJOR 'MULE' HOLLEY

one

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1960s. Holley had a co-composer credit on "Mule", an achingly slow blues on which he sounded, as one critic put it, like a reluctant mule in a stall. Holley continued to make regular visits to Europe. His joyful figure enlivened many a festival, and audiences were usually treated to one of his extended solo spots, in which he used a bow while singing in unison. The technique, borrowed from Stan Stewart, had its limitations in the studio, but Holley's comic delivery was ample compensation on the concert stage.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.E.L. Maxwell and **Miss S.M. Parsons**.

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr Kenneth Bagwell, QC, and Mrs R. Bagwell, of Wentworth Surrey, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Parsons, of Chipping Barnet, London, Cambridgeshire.

Mr D.C. Brooks and **Miss N.S. Beekman**. The engagement is announced between Daniel Conrad, second son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Brooks, of Lansdowne, South Africa, and Emma Felicity, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs B.W.A. Beekman, of Piney Park, Swaziland.

Mr D.J. Quigley and **Miss M. Lorraine Ferreira**. The engagement is announced between Herbert Quigley, son of the late Mr and Mrs J.R. Quigley, of Ladysmith, South Africa, and Nicola Semen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Semenoff, of Higher Berry Court, Donhead St. Mary, Wiltshire, Dorset.

Mr C.J. Carr and **Miss S. Moretti**. The engagement is announced between Alexander, only son of the 63rd Lord Mayor of London yesterday at Guildhall. To coincide with his admission, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday that his brother, Major General P.W. Graham, is to be General Officer Commanding Scotland from March 1991, in succession to Lieutenant General Sir John Macmillan.

Mr D.J. Worboys and **Miss M. Luciana Ferreira**. The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs M.A. Quigley, of Hackley, Essex, and Anna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Semenoff, of Higher Berry Court, Donhead St. Mary, Wiltshire, Dorset.

Mr P.H. Jackson and **Miss C.J. Green**. The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the Rev J.G. and Mrs Hester Jackson, of Beckley, Oxfordshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.B. Hibbs, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr D.J. Hughes and **Miss T.A. Morris**. The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the Rev J.G. and Mrs Hester Jackson, of Beckley, Oxfordshire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.B. Hibbs, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

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Mr D.J. Jackson and **Miss S. Jane Humphreys**. The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Colonel Peter Lindsay, and of Mrs S. Jane Humphreys, of Fulham, London, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Jackson, of Chipping Barnet, Middlesex.

Mr B.J. Martin and **Miss M.C. Gilbert**. The engagement is announced between Brian John Martin, of Bromley, Kent, and Melanie Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gary Gilbert, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.J. Patterson and **Miss K.E. Avery**. The engagement is announced between Brian John Patterson, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Karen Elizabeth Avery, of Chipping Barnet, Middlesex.

Mr J.M. Palmer and **Miss J.M. Hobson**. The engagement took place in London on Thursday, November 8, 1990, between Mr James Edward Bullock and Mrs Elizabeth Hobson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Murray Palmer.

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Home from home: David Hicks

The outside story of an inside man

David Hicks, the interior designer, indulges his love of the exterior at weekends, and occasionally on weekdays, at his estate in Oxfordshire. There he can shoot, ride, garden and concern himself with matters of preservation, as well as working in his design studio in a 19th century folly in the grounds.

A passionate gardener, he designs exteriors as an integral extension of his interiors. "Look at that it's almost a room," he says, gesturing through the window of his classical drawing room at the classical lines of his architecturally clipped hedge of hornbeam "stil" trees. They surround lawn which is mown up the middle but left to grow wild at the sides to create the rich combination of textures for which his interior designs are noted.

"I love straight lines and tremendous discipline with a bit of romantic overgrowth and disorder," he says, talking of his gardens in terms more suited to fabrics and architecture — his "tapestry tunnel" of roses, honeysuckle and clematis, his "crenelated" herbaceous borders and the "pyramids" of shocking pink roses and geraniums he intends to construct in the "red garden" over the coming months.

The long garden, the pot garden, the rose-cutting garden and the secret garden... each, like his rooms, has its own distinctive character.

"It is the element of surprise I like," he says. "I do not like to see flowers from the house; it's vulgar

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WEEKEND LIVING: OUT OF TOWN

Originals: Rodney Peppé, toymaker

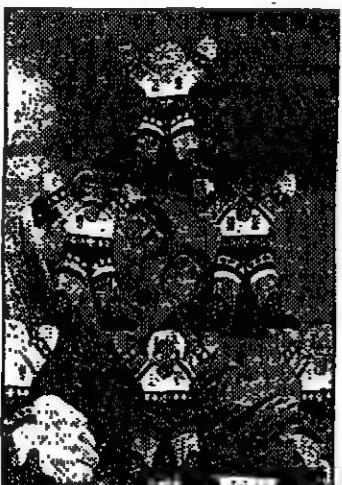
Wooden it be nice?

RODNEY Peppé's art toys are coveted by adults and jealously guarded from children, for whom they are thought to be far too good. At exhibitions of Mr Peppé's work it is not unknown for sober-suited City types to charge, dinosaur-fashion, at small boys in their way.

Such is the cerebral appeal of his articulated toys that scientists at a symposium on movement were held spellbound by a wooden monkey he had made to climb to speed up a thin rope.

Highly decorated, his art toys often feature simple mechanisms based on Victorian and earlier 18th century toys. In his workshop at his home near Stroud, Gloucestershire, Mr Peppé incorporates traditional sand-toy movements into his designs. Luigi, his "over-the-hill" acrobat, is a perfect example of this, as the toy's flailing limbs sometimes make it over the bar from which it hangs, but often it is helplessly spreadeagled until a few grains of sand add the necessary weight to let it unravel, ready to try again.

Now in his fifties, Mr Peppé was an established writer and illustrator of children's books when he began making toys. One of his first examples was the richly decorated jumping jack, for which he continues to take commissions at about £85 each. In 1974 the British Toy Makers' Guild exhibited his early efforts, which were inspired by the *pantines*. These



Toy strongman: Rodney Peppé

were popular in France in about 1750 but their convulsive arm and leg movements, operated by a string, induced such paroxysms in some pregnant women that they were thought hazardous and banned.

As Mr Peppé's interest in moving toys developed he was asked to write a book on the subject, which led to more exhibitions. He says: "I get letters from adults about my moveables the way I do from children about *Hildegard Pig*." The exploits of the polite but greedy Hildegard are into their second series on ITV's children's programmes.

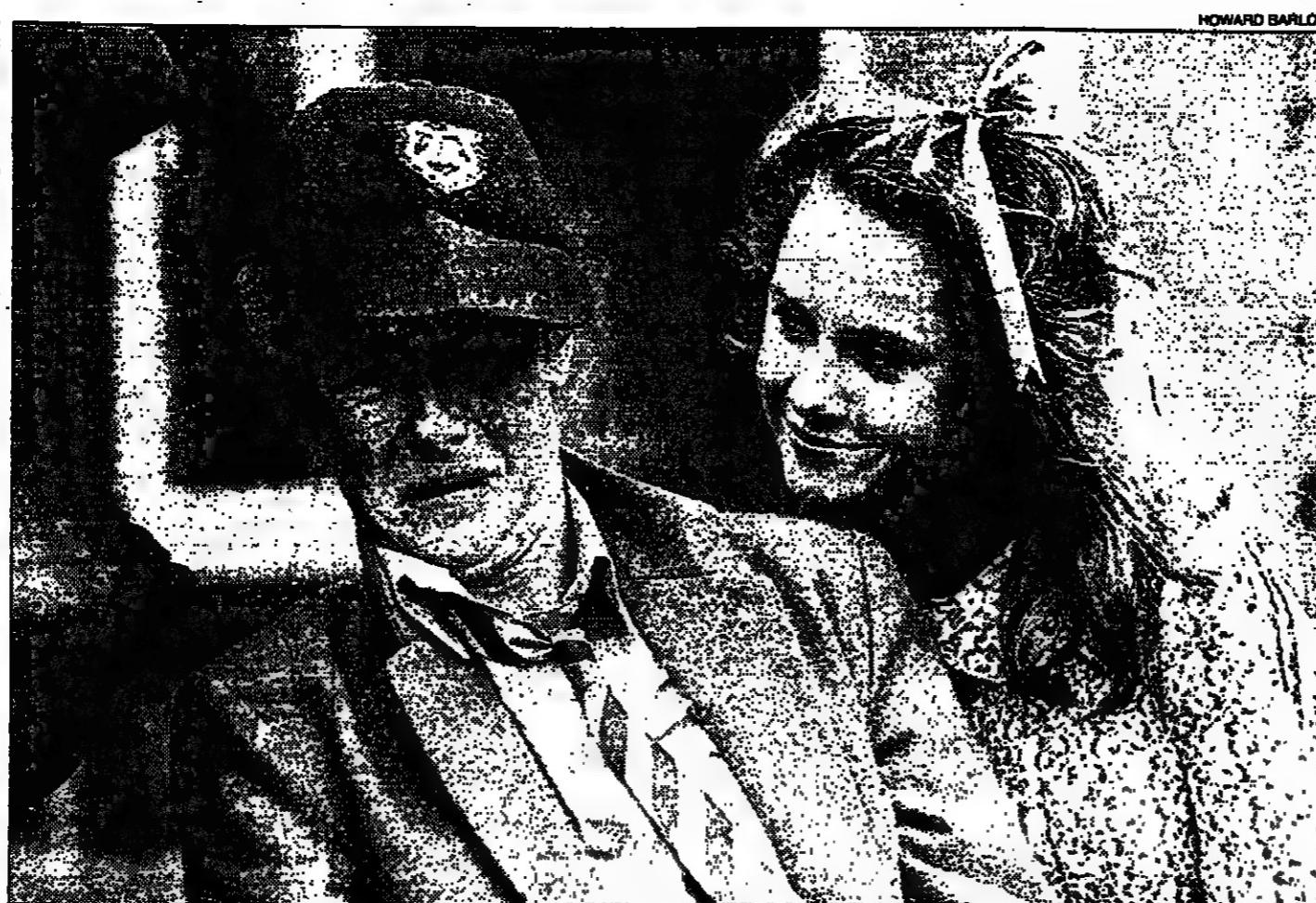
Mr Peppé's work spans the age spectrum, from under fives to the mature collector. However, he finds one group more interesting than others: "I find very young children most interesting, while they still have the drawing talent common to all children but which most of them lose."

He did his formal art training at the Central School of Art and Crafts in London, after which he went into advertising, "because there was more money". However, he enjoys making novelties such as his wooden "strong man" tribute to René Magritte, the Belgian surrealist, with dumbbells doubling for interchangeable heads. The strong man commissions cost about £90.

For an exhibition at the Kilvert Gallery, Cyro, near Hay-on-Wye, Powys, Mr Peppé is working on miniature chairs decorated in the style of Picasso, Klee and Matisse. The Painted Chair exhibition runs from November 18 to the end of January. At a showing of his toys at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum early next year the art work from many of his books for children will also be on sale. At the exhibition Mr Peppé will host a toy discovery day, demonstrating his toys and getting children to make their own, modelled on Victorian originals.

SANDY BISP

• Further information from Mr Peppé (028582 666); the Kilvert Gallery, Cyro, Powys (0497 820831) and Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (0242 237431).



"I'm the weaver and the weaver": look-alikes William (Jane Townend) and Violet Elizabeth Bott (Antonia Myles-White) at St Elphin's School

William and the big party

Richmal Crompton's old school is observing her centenary. Lynne Greenwood reports

William would love it. Stew and dumplings for lunch, sticky buns and jam sandwiches for tea, boiled sweets all day long. He might miss the liquorice water, but it is thought the adults will prefer cups of tea. The final preparations for the celebrations at St Elphin's School in Derbyshire to mark the centenary of Richmal Crompton, its most famous "old girl", are reaching their climax. On November 15, the birthday of the author of 38 William books, the school will be turned over to Williammania.

The day's programme has been printed on poster depicting the naughty schoolboy in front of the splendid school building, a hydro in the days of Derbyshire's famous health resorts. Here, in 1904, Richmal Crompton Lamburn arrived with her elder sister, Gwen. They were attending the Clergy Daughters' School at Warrington, Lancashire, when it decided to move its premises after an outbreak of scarlet fever.

Miss Crompton later wrote about the move in the school magazine: "The half-term was a never-to-be-forgotten day. We arrived breathless, hot and breathless of curiosity at Darley Dale Hydro and overran every corner of it. Then we swarmed over the village in parties, bought up all the flowers, picture postcards and mineral waters that the inhab-

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WEEKEND LIVING: IN TOWN

**Astronomers say
overlit cities block
out the stars.
Others take a
darker view, says
Nicola Murphy**

On the first day God said: "Let there be light." On Monday, Cliff Richard will make a similar pronouncement as he turns on London's Oxford Street Christmas decorations, adding a few megawatts to the artificial light with which we lighten the darkness in our cities and along main roads.

Dazzled, we all agree that "wisdom excels folly as far as light excelleth darkness" (Ecclesiastes 2:13). All of us, that is except the astronomers who are campaigning for Dark Skies 2000. They are fighting against "light pollution".

In the run up to National Astronomy Week (November 17-24), stargazers have become increasingly frustrated as night after night man-made, multi-coloured ephemeral "stars" have exploded from bonfire night rockets and obscured all those little bears and big bears, ploughs and saucepans, crowns and crosses so valued by astronomers. "Fireworks are a terrible nuisance," says Linda Simonian of the National Astronomers Centre. "But at least they are not there every night. 'Sky glow' is."

"Sky glow" is the shimmering orange haze above brightly lit cities and motorways, a haze that spreads higher and higher as light is scattered, bouncing from dust particle to dust particle. "Most people don't even notice that you can't see the stars any more," Ms Simonian says. "But if you do look up you don't see white on black, you see orange." And clearly orange skies at night are not an astronomer's delight.

"We've got to have somewhere to go," she says, and describes her vision of an ideal "black" future world as a place with "dark belts, like green fields", with signs reading: "No light beyond this point."

"Something has to happen. In the last 30 to 40 years sky glow has got worse and worse. They say that street lighting is important for crime prevention, but when you consider that lighting levels have been increasing tremendously, and so have crime levels, how can they be connected?"

Such an attitude does not find favour with Jackie Oguribe, from the Hammersmith/Fulham Women's Safe Transport Group, in London: "I don't see how anyone



The only stars in town: Regent Street after the Christmas lights came on this week — more bad news for astronomy

Red sky at night, M4 alight

can put astronomy before peoples' lives," she says. "Once it is dark it is dangerous out there. People say that if they can't be driven, they won't go out. They won't risk the walk to the bus stop."

Ms Oguribe does not believe there has been any noticeable improvement in the number of street lights. She moved to another area in order to be able to walk home on property in streets. "Before I had to run all the way from the tube. Why should I have to do that? What kind of equal opportunities do we have in this country if one group can dictate lighting the streets? Darkness is terrifying."

That the public does equate safety with brighter lights was made apparent in the second Islington crime survey, published last February. Conducted among a random selection of 1,680 residents of the London borough, the survey has focused on the London borough of Wandsworth, which has spent five years

believing poor street lighting is a major cause of crime, that one in three women feels inadequate street lighting aids sex-related crimes and that four in ten women under 25 avoid going out alone after dark.

In the coming weeks experts

relighting the area in a programme that is now 80 per cent completed. Its street lamps, like the new "downlighters" in Islington, point downwards and sideways. They are not orange, but pink. So should astronomers pack up and move to Wandsworth? Not yet.

"Light which is angled downwards may well reflect off the pavement and back into the sky," says Nigel Pollard, the British representative on the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (International Commission on Illumination). In addition to dealing with the problems of "obstructive lighting" (including trains, sports stadium floodlights and lights overlooking bedrooms), CIE has a division for attending to the needs of astronomers. In September Division 4 of the CIE went to York to listen to stargazers.

"We gave them a forum and now it's up to the astronomers to arrange tests, quantify the problem and provide us with scientific data so that we will be able to decide what to do with street lights," Mr Pollard says. In response to the CIE's request, the National Astronomy Centre is organising a survey.

Mr Pollard, who is also the principal engineer of Westminster council's public lighting department, anticipates that the borough councils will be sympathetic to all new suggestions. "Lighting in London is inefficient," he says.

"And now that the councils have to become increasingly cost-conscious they will be looking for ways to save on their lighting bills."

In the meantime, Christmas lights are going up and the skies of London will not be getting any darker. "It's Scrooges to complain about the lights," says Pat Poole, from the Oxford Street Association. "They're lovely and we've got no intention of choosing any alternative decoration."

Help: the Murder My Lord troupe

Hire a hitman to murder the boss

EVER dreamt of stabbing your boss in the back, or cutting an overbearing colleague down to size? You can do both, and settle a few other scores as well, when you book *Murder My Lord* for your office party. Anniversaries of all kinds provide plenty of dramatic scope for those who can afford the near £2,000 it costs to hire Clive Panto (he swears the name is genuine) and his troupe.

"We research our client thoroughly and work personal gossip and scandal into the plot so every show is different," says Mr Panto, who read English and law at Cambridge before becoming an actor.

He remembers the oil company executive who wanted the script to hinge on his arguments with his American parent company over greater investment; the metal-trading company where the managing director suggested he sell plutonium to the Russians to give the plot a twist; and another corporate bash where a model who had appeared in the company's advertisements pretended to have had an affair with the marketing supremo.

So painstaking is the preparation that game-for-a-laugh executives are even encouraged to pose in bed with the actress who provides the sexual frisson and the photos are then used as "clues" or evidence of blackmail.

Although nobody could possibly suspect the rotund Mr Panto (who usually appears as a detective, disguised in a long blonde wig and waitress's outfit) was anything but an actor, other actors often appear at the event in much more plausible guises.

VICTORIA MCKEE

• *Murder My Lord* can be contacted at Britannia House, 1-11 Glenethorpe Road, London W6 0LF (081-846 9491). Bookings are being taken now for Christmas parties.



Just kidding: the secret of Clive Panto's murderous success, he says, is that he does a great deal of research before laying out the bodies

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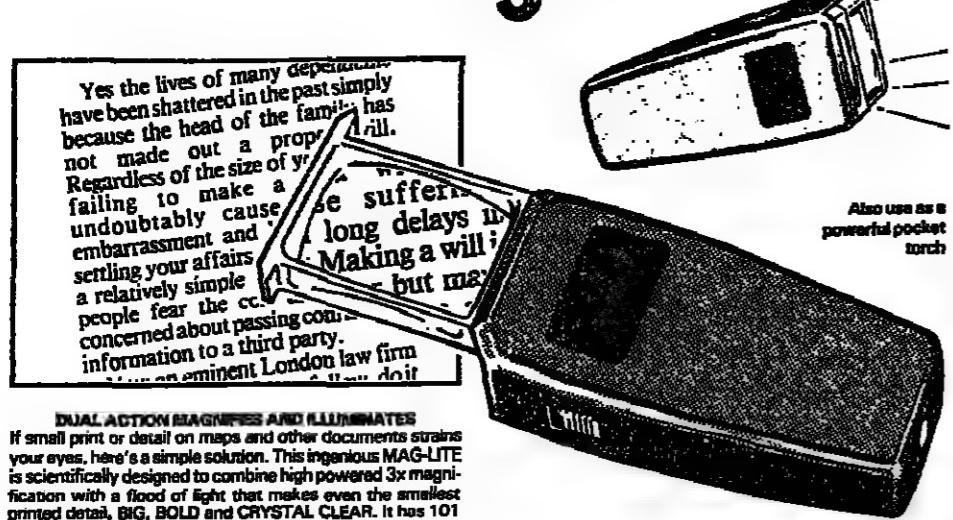
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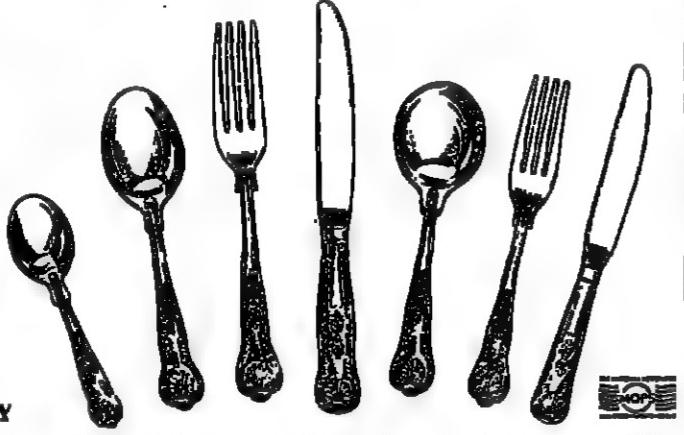
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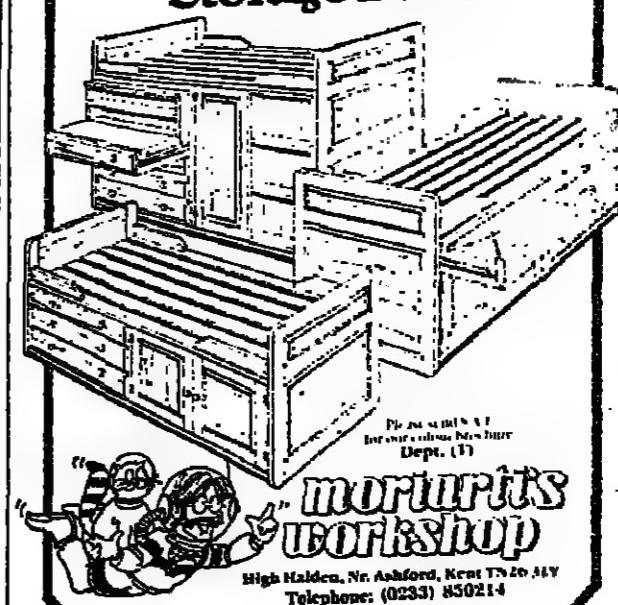
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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 1990

WEEKEND LIVING: COLLECTING

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

21

Old master of fortune?

A painting bought in a job lot at auction in America may prove to be a lost work by the elusive Venetian artist Giorgione

When John Harrington first came to London proclaiming his "discovery" of a great Venetian painting, art historians greeted him with tongues in cheeks and fingers in ears. Here was a strange painting of two men and a boy in frozen tableau conferring over a sheet of music, being championed by a strange American with a yarn about being "psychically directed" to an Atlanta auction house in 1961.

Having bought the painting in a \$300 job lot, the former marine and self-confessed millionaire says that chance meetings in a pub and a public library produced the information that his painting was once owned by a 16th century English ambassador to Venice, who carried it home to Cumberland in 1538. No wonder those art historians demurred.

Now, after two years' research, the tables are turning dramatically. Mr Harrington's painting is being seriously considered as a lost work by Giorgione, who is credited with inspiring the Venetian High Renaissance before dying of the plague, aged 30, in 1510.

If the painting is by Giorgione, it could be the find of the century, and worth tens of millions of pounds. Only five works are confidently attributed to him, and none has come up for auction.

Suddenly everyone is Mr Harrington's friend, from the American collector Armand Hammer (who has asked to exhibit the work among his collection of Leonardos when he opens a new museum in Los Angeles next year) to leading galleries at Yale and in Vienna, who have also asked for the painting on loan.

At his home in Osgrey, Florida, Mr Harrington is busy proving that the painting, 24½in by 30¾in, is a genuine Giorgione. First, he commissioned pigment analysis by the McCrone Research Institute of Chicago, which concluded: "Everything about the painting is entirely consistent with the period during which Giorgione painted."

Inspection by the conservator John Bertalan of Birmingham,



Lost and found? John Harrington and photograph of the possible Giorgione, which he bought for \$300 in 1961

Alabama, confirmed that the painting is largely unrestored, comprising layers of original varnish and a probable layer of 18th or 19th century varnish on top.

Bill Cummins, a researcher at Newcastle University enlisted by Mr Harrington, says local records confirm that the painting was brought to England around 1538 by John Legh of Isel Hall, Cumberland, at that time ambassador to Venice. Mr Harrington has affidavits from descendants that the "Giorgione" was still in Isel Hall in the Twenties.

Stella Mary Newton, the British costume expert connected with

the Courtauld Institute, stated that the garments in the painting were, in her opinion, "painted from life"; the central figure's shirt having both a button on the front and a "convincing edge" to it, while the seam on the scarlet coat of the left-hand figure (a crabby old senator looking sternly at the viewer) is "in exactly the right place". Finally, the peculiar detail whereby his white undergarment is hitched up over his ear is so "inexplicable" that "it couldn't be a 17th century copy", she says.

All these factors, and comparison with another painting of the same subject at the Pitti Palace in

Florence, were then drawn together into a paper by Dr Klara Garas of Budapest University. The Pitti Palace version, she says, was once in the great Vendramin collection in Venice, along with Giorgione's famous paintings *The Tempest* and *An Old Woman*, which are in the Accademia gallery in Venice today.

Both the Pitti and Mr Harrington's paintings have the same subject, she says, but rather than being "The Three Ages of Man" as long assumed, they depict "Marcus Aurelius studying with two philosophers" showing the Roman prodigy, already a member of

the priests' college, not needing music at his inauguration ceremony because he already knew the songs by heart. "The link between humanistic ideas, the interest for antiquity and the love of music leads us unambiguously to Giorgione," she writes. "At that time there was in Venice only Giorgione who could have created this composition."

The final boost to Mr Harrington's research has been the apparent demolition of the Pitti version, following scientific analysis, and subsequent restoration last year.

Mr Harrington's painting is well preserved, but the Pitti version is not. Tests, Dr Garas says, prove that although every detail points "to a date probably not later than 1506 when Giorgione's style was said to have changed", in many parts there was not much left of the work "except the preparation of the ground". Mrs Newton added this week that the costumes in Mr Harrington's picture are "more convincing" than those in the Pitti version.

Mr Harrington could not have found himself a more elusive artist to nail down than Giorgione, who is more myth than man, in terms of what is known about him.

Vasari, the 16th century biographer of artists, initially puts him on the map by ranking him alongside Leonardo as one of the founders of "modern" painting, and explaining that he was nicknamed "Big George... because of his physical appearance and his moral and intellectual stature".

Vasari then defuses his claims by confusing Giorgione with his pupil Titian, attributing one particular work to both of them.

Over the centuries, a number of works believed to be by Big George have been demoted. Some are accepted by certain scholars but rejected by others. Only one painting is signed and dated.

"Under these circumstances, it is hardly possible to go further in the attribution... than to say we feel it is very close to Giorgione's style and spirit, and we think the concept, the composition, must be entirely his," Dr Garas concludes.

The true identity of the subject remains locked within it. Why, Mrs Newton asks, is the figure on the right hirsute and wearing green – both sartorial details banned in Venice in the early 16th century? Could he be a Muslim? If so, what is he doing with Marcus Aurelius? Mr Harrington can take comfort that even Giorgione's contemporaries often had no idea what his paintings meant.

Quitting the land of the living

Contemporary art's American silly season has finally got the saleroom brush-off

THE American contemporary art market – scene of the silliest speculation of all in recent years, with buyers gambling Impressionist prices for works on which the paint has scarcely dried – fell flat on its face this week. Perhaps posterity, rather than the pocket book, will now be allowed to play its part in the assessment of genius.

Forty-three out of 74 pictures were left unlived on the Sotheby's rostrum, the \$19 million (£10 million) total being less than that of a single (record) Jasper Johns last year. Christie's fared much better, partly because of its higher-quality offering and partly because it may have used Sotheby's unpleasant experience to adjust its reserves. While half the Christie's lots were left unsold, its success rate in terms of value was 77 per cent, and its total of \$36 million was on line with last year's total.

All the big names, whom speculators were recently falling over themselves to buy, became casualties, killing the assumption that brand names sell. At Sotheby's there was no interest in Johns's *Untitled*, a painting as recently as 1984 of the various fixtures seen by the artist from a reclining position in his bath (estimate \$3 million). Roy Lichtenstein's *Spray II*, in which a manicured hand operates an aerosol, was shunned at \$600,000 (estimate up to \$2 million).

The sole English artist represented in this mainly transatlantic field was Francis Bacon, whose *Portrait of George Dyer Staring into a Mirror* was bought by a European buyer for £1.9 million. The painting was one of six lots bought by European collectors, compared to 23 bought by Americans, for a total of \$24.5 million. The Japanese, who entered the market with a vengeance last year – the dealer Mountain Tortoise paying \$20.68 million for Johns's *Interchange* – took only one trophy: a painting at \$495,000.

The biggest lesson of all for the auctioneers is to steer away at present from new works by middle generation artists such as Schubel, Basquiat and Stella, leaving living artists to the dealers.



Lichtenstein's *Spray II*: unsold at \$600,000 (estimate up to \$2 million)

Atkinson Grimshaw

Mellow fruitfulness in season



Prized Victorian values: *Goddess of Night* by Atkinson Grimshaw, an evocative winter scene

IF EVER there was a painter of the English autumn, of evening and the promise of lights in the windows of warm houses, of moonlight cutting through clouds and branches to gleam on damp pavements and fallen leaves, it was Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893).

Grimshaw was born in Leeds to parents with no interest in art. The boy was put to work as a railway ticket clerk and forbidden to paint. In 1858, however, he married his cousin Theodosia, who gave him every encouragement, and his poetic visions and Yorkshire landscapes soon found a market.

Grimshaw was a much more varied artist than might be assumed from his best-known works. His early paintings were in a detailed, Pre-Raphaelite manner; from about 1879 he painted his popular dock scenes and at the end he produced nocturnes of anchored ships and beach scenes. There were also paintings of his wife and of Agnes Leefe, his favourite model.

After his death, Grimshaw's work disappeared from view. By the Sixties his work was usually rejected by sale rooms as being of too little value and only two London dealers, Lady Abby and Charlotte

Frank, were enthusiasts. Then Christopher Wood, who was building a Victorian department at Christie's, took up the cause. On becoming a dealer himself he organised two Grimshaw exhibitions in 1976, the first in Harrogate, the second in London. Now Mr Wood has joined Richard Green to arrange a large West End exhibition.

The change in Grimshaw's standing is reflected in the prices demanded in 1976

plus some oddities, such as a waymarker, or 18th century surveyor's pedometer.

Monday and Tuesday: A competing contents sale organised by Christie's is taking place a couple of counties away at Cold Overton Hall, Cuckfield. The Jacobean house itself, with about four acres, is on the market through Savills at just under £1 million.

Tuesday: This is English week for paintings in London, starting with some watercolour gems at Christie's, including Turner's newly rediscovered *Turner of London* of around 1825 (estimate £50,000 to £550,000). Of greater topographic, if lesser artistic, interest is de Cort's 1792 *Whitehall* (a mere £600 to

about £300) and today whose works are most often found on the market are Louis, Arthur, Elaine and Wilfred. Given their father's change of fortunes, their work (and that of Grimshaw's followers, notably Wilfred Jenkins, Walter Meegan and Samuel Wagstaff) might now be worth seeking out.

HUON MALLALIEU

• The exhibition is at the Rickard Green Gallery, 39 Dover Street, W1, until Saturday 23 November.

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Wednesday: The star of the week should be Constable's £20,000 to £30,000.

Thursday: Sotheby's turn for Turner, with a watercolour view of 1819 showing what was shortly to become Buckingham Palace (up to £30,000), also a Welsh view by Samuel Palmer (up to £3,000).

Friday: The English picture week ends on an American note, with Benjamin West's portrait of General Monkton (£1 million to £1.5 million) at Christie's.

• Holloway's, 49 Parsons Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire (0295-253197). Christie's King Street, St James's (071-339 9060). Sotheby's, Sussex, Summers Place, Billingshurst (0433-763933). Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-483 8080). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602). Bonhams, Montpelier Street SW1 (071-584 9161). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-761).

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• Monday: Holloway's has a contents sale at Sandon House between Chipping Norton and Burford. There are textiles, porcelain, glass, books and furniture.

Review

• Bitty Brits: The record for a painting by Sir George Clausen rose from £55,000 to £137,500 when a private buyer bought his *A Schoolgirl* at Sotheby's. The Modern British sale was disappointing, however, with 44.4 per cent unsold and the star lot, Orpen's *The Disappointing Letter*, withdrawn beforehand.

Big bite: The dealer Julian Agnew bid £300,000 for the copyright of Roald Dahl's *The Vicar of Nibbleswick* on behalf of Random Century and Penguin Books. The short story was written for the Dyslexia Institute auction.

Red Letter: Missives from the King of Siam (Yul Brynner in *The King and I*) to the English traveller Robert Marsham, including one addressed to "The English Traveller, at his way, at anywhere", sold to a London dealer for £8,250, double the estimate. At Sotheby's.

Preview

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ARTS

Updike: *Rabbit at Rest* is a "depressed book by a depressed man"

LITERATURE: NEW YORK

Rabbit as metaphor for America's decline

John Updike's recent novel has provoked an intense bout of self-examination in the United States. Charles Bremner reports

This has been a mournful autumn in America, with the bite of recession, expectations of war and rising petrol prices. Images of decline tumble daily from the media, comforting the gloom-mongers waiting for the economy to catch up with the moral collapse they have been diagnosing since the height of Reaganism.

For some, the ultimate proof was the television commercial in which a near-naked Madonna, draped in the Stars and Stripes, cajoled younger citizens to vote with the promise that casting your ballot is "better than sex". For others it was the decision to exempt pupils from having to write a single word of their own in school-leaving exams. Anything but multiple-choice boxes was considered too demanding.

Down from the high of the Eighties, *Time* magazine argued this week that America had become addicted to ignorance: "Did the American Dream, all along, mean nothing more than the quest for painlessness?" That question could have come straight from Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, the anti-hero of John Updike's just-completed tetralogy of novels.

The last of these once-a-decade excursions through the state of America (published by Andre Deutsch in Britain, and reviewed in *The Times* on November 1), *Rabbit at Rest* has touched a raw nerve, unsettling reviewers and even prompting an editorial in the *New York Times*. The question exercising critics is whether Updike has gone too far in depicting the demise of the selfish, superficial Rabbit as a metaphor for the America that was born in the abundance of the post-war decade and, in Updike's view, ended with the 1989 revolutions.

In *Rabbit at Rest*, the one-time basketball star turned lecherous suburbanite, who first appeared in the 1959, succumbs to heart failure after 500 pages of morose reflection on his own and America's decline. Living half the year in Florida on the riches from his Toyota dealership, gorging on junk food, he is obsessed with decay. "Everything falling apart; airplanes, bridges, eight years under Reagan of nobody minding the

store, making money out of nothing, trusting in God." In a recurrent nightmare, he is haunted by the image of Pan Am Flight 103.

As Updike explains, his is "a depressed book about a depressed man written by a depressed man". He thinks the mood suits the "sense of weariness" now afflicting America. Everyone agrees that he has done a marvellous job of evoking the feel of the era, but his critics are uncomfortable about according literary merit to what they deem to be a catalogue of headlines, television programmes and clothing styles.

Terry Wolfe came in for similar criticism over *Bonfire of the Vanities*, which many saw as too

realist to qualify as art.

Louis Menand, writing in *Esquire*, allowed that *Rabbit*'s emptiness will present future historians with a key to the American Cold War psyche, but he chasised Updike for producing a "Moby-Dickish encyclopaedia of American life". Menand is unhappy, one assumes, about such metaphorically loaded touches as having a

man from the Japanese car company visit Rabbit and demand repayment of the debt run up by his cocaine-addict son. "Isn't that how we see the Japanese, as the price we're paying for our sins?" the author retorts.

For Gary Wills, who dissected *Rabbit* in the *New York Review of Books*, Updike fails because his hero lacks "moral heft" and is given a voice that was implausibly perceptive for one of his uncouth behaviour and background. *The Wall Street Journal* congratulated Updike on the detail, but complained that "in setting himself up as the curator of the panoramic living museum that is America, he has left his hero standing somewhere outside the gates".

George Will, the conservative columnist, took a similar line, saying it was fun to ransack *Rabbit* for social diagnoses but he was unhappy with the view of a sclerotic America gorging itself to death on junk food. "Is America

mortal? Maybe, even probably, but not imminently," he said. Perhaps Updike was confusing his own condition with the world's.

The *New York Times* came to Updike's defence this week, wondering why he was getting "this bum's rush". The critics were revealing more about America's discontent with itself than about the novel, it mused. It ascribed part of the negative reaction to the snobbery of the literary world. Rabbit, a car salesman without a university degree, and unfashionably overweight to boot, was not a worthy subject for carrying a high moral message. Most of all, Harry Angstrom failed to transform himself as the taste of the video-age dictates, the paper suggested.

Updike, who says he has given Rabbit up with difficulty, dismisses the charges about putting high-flown ideas in the mind of a low-born hero. "Shakespeare had people talk in blank verse when they don't really," he said the other day. He now says he plans to write a novel about the 1970s, the pre-Aids time that he considers "something of a paradise lost".

Leading article, page 13

THEATRE

Eastern tables turned

NOBODY with a television and an interest in life will ever forget last autumn: the demos, the huge crowds, the glum functionaries ceding power to actors, authors and other such oddballs. But we have yet to hear, at least in any detail, what happened in the eyries and sancta where change was mooted and agreed. That is the gap David Edgar seeks to fill in his new play at the Cottesloe.

The result will not be to everybody's taste. Some may feel Edgar should spend more of his last act welcoming the arrival of freedom in Eastern Europe, and less hinting at the social perils he believes it brings. Some may be disoriented by the shifts and swerves of a play that consists almost entirely of meetings. Some may wish the hubbub of the streets was not simply background to the minutes Edgar has taken on the negotiations of 1989. Some may itch for less talk, more event.

Still, the play makes an honourable contribution to the department of East European studies that our left-leaning dramatists seem to be opening. It lacks the sweep and impressionistic verve of *Caryl Churchill's Mad Forest*. It also lacks the simple-mindedness of Howard Brenton and Tariq Ali's crawling homage to Gorbachev, *Moscow Gold*. Edgar's aim is less imaginatively ambitious than the one, more complex than the other, to present the case-study of an unwilling suicide; to suggest how the communists were manouevred onto the poli-

Benedict Nightingale reviews the latest Edgar play: *The Shape of the Table*

tical sill and why they jumped.

While Churchill's setting is Romania, and Brenton's Russia, Edgar's setting is a capsule country with obvious similarities to Czechoslovakia. The party chief, Stratford Johns's elephantic Lutz, has ruled ever since a Soviet invasion undid the reforms of the liberal communist, John Ringham's Spassov. A writer turned window-cleaner turned political prisoner, Karl Johnson's unassuming but unyielding Prus, pushes a coalition called Public Platform to power and himself to the presidency. The change of names may seem evasive, but it gives Edgar the freedom to speculate without risk of demur.

He certainly knows how meetings operate, and takes a grandmaster's delight in a canny attack or elegant knight-fork. The communists are themselves divided, except for the Lutz faction, locking in self belief; but they still imagine they can end off democracy by adding the odd "tend to" or "consider" to their declarations. They opt for what they think are superficial concessions, tactical retreats, figleaf alliances, only to self-destruct under the fear of close scrutiny of

their history. To adjust the metaphor, they try to trick evolution into seeing them as other than dinosaurs and, naturally, they fail.

The play's title is also its set, and the set its meaning. Only a thin cloth conceals the fact that the huge object stage-centre is a cluster of little tables, not a single vast one. A similar point is nicely made when everybody intones what seems to be the same national anthem, but actually has different words depending on the politics of the singer. Yet Edgar's dialogue is not always as clear as his imagery when it comes to showing the coming of pluralism.

Part of the problem may be Jenny Killik's direction. It produces several performances that seem self-conscious and studied, and only one that is impressively incisive: Stephen Boxer's adenoial, ingratiating Interior Minister. It fails to get the menace and burly charisma from Johns his part demands, and lets him react to the loss of supreme power with body-language so mild it would not unsettle a mosquito. Yet Edgar's language has its ponderous, obfuscating moments too.

Is it fair to object to an ending which allows the disgraced Lutz, of all people, to lecture Prus about the danger of losing his ideals, becoming compromised by office, and so on? It might seem so, especially as the writer-president also stands accused of playing Pandora with a country whose national box includes skinheads wanting to gas gypsies. Yet Edgar

Set for confrontation: Old forces meet new in *The Shape of the Table*

is no clockwork marxist. Indeed, one of his strengths is his willingness to embrace contradiction.

As he sees it, Lutz can be devious, corrupt and far worse, yet has a dogged integrity of sorts. What is liberating for some may

create new insecurities for others, and still be right and necessary.

Shape of the Table may be dry

beside Edgar's best work, but it still challenges the braincells.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THANKS to a delayed pension, a French *demi-mondaine* and an Italian music festival, an audience at the Barbican this week heard a rare piece of late Rossini, which warmed the core of an otherwise sombre November evening in the City.

Giovanna d'Arco, a little-known but appropriately fiery dramatic *gran scena* for soprano, was written after *William Tell* and before Rossini moved back to Italy, assured of his state pension. At this time, his own late-life love burgeoned in his marriage to Balzac's mistress, no less. She it was who fanned the flame of inspiration for his treatment of the Joan of Arc story.

The piece remained as silent as the dedication, partly because the score was jealously guarded by Rossini, and partly because the piano-accompanied version struck too few sparks for its subject-matter. But when the distinguished mezzo Terese Berganza wanted half a programme's worth of orchestral and vocal Rossini for the Pessaro festival in 1989, the composer Salvatore Sciarrino obliged by providing an "elaborazione per orchestra" of the original.

- Not a trace of Sciarrino's own theatrical experimentation, and yet a great deal of his virtuoso instrumental sophis-

tication, was brought to bear.

Sciarrino shows that he knows Rossini inside-out: the orchestral forces are authentic, and the sonorities true, not only to the letter, but also to the spirit of Rossini's own inspired imagination.

What is more, both the vocal writing and the orchestration might equally well have been conceived for Berganza at this particular stage in her career. A bassoon softens and thickens the

Tell-like darkness of the opening and finds an answer in the unaccompanied depths of Berganza's still lustrous mezzo.

The flare of a climax is happily met, mid-voice and brightened with brass; wood-winds chase each other as the voice effortlessly gurgles its way into coloratura for a cabaretus of triumph.

This was *vittoria* indeed, for *Giovanna* and its composer, for Sciarrino and for Berganza, and Paavo Berglund went on to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Sibelius's First Symphony that was no less burning in its conviction.

HILARY FINCH

The actress's naturalism is sometimes blurred or rendered inaudible by continual competition with uninhibited Bristolian coughing from an audience struck by autumn chills. She hardly reacts (the test of a complex *Yelena*) to Astro's forestry lecture — and the audience is even shown the maps, all very proper and ecological as befit Chekhov's prophetic writing.

By this time, Tim Reed's design has made sense, closing in claustrophobically around the company. But the production remains a civilised comment on *Uncle Vanya*, rather than an exploration of the agonies within.

MARTIN HOYLE

DANCE

Steamy memories in motion

A SENSE of urgency pervades Siobhan Davies' *Different Trains*, and it is packed with activity. The remarkable thing is that with so much going on all the time, both music and dance remain clearly focused.

Steve Reich's score provides the driving force, with the four musicians in the pit playing swift short phrases, up to three more layers of recorded string quartets superimposed, voices making flat statements that are repeated rhythmically, and sounds of trains interrupting all through. All this finds a parallel in the events on stage.

The choreographer uses

much swift movement, often with a risky off-balance quality, but she also (as she explained in this paper on Thursday) introduces a gestural element developed from sign language. Frequently there is a kind of frozen conversation in one part of the stage as contrast with the busy dance elsewhere. Another recurring motif is of two dancers sinking to the ground balanced against each other as if for comfort as well as for support.

At the back of the stage, David Buckland has placed a high wall, patterned with the ends of cylinders; against it two big, irregularly shaped

fans revolve. These objects reveal different textures and colouring as Peter Mumford's lighting changes, also affecting the atmosphere on stage, with especially chilling effect at the end of the central sequence.

The motive behind the shape and tone of the work is the text (printed in the programme because not all of it is easy to hear). During the first part, reassuring adults make remarks about train journeys in the United States 50 years ago. In parts two, the same banal, matter-of-fact tone continues, but what the voices are describing is the experience of the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe: Davies and her collaborators respond to this with a chilled bleakness. The final section brings together both elements in the music and dance for a difficult reconciliation in memory.

The six dancers are Davies' usual team, their individual qualities sharpened and reinforced by collective purpose. They and the Smith Quartet perform *Different Trains* in a way that makes the most of its gripping intensity. *Different Trains* has another performance at Sadler's Wells tonight.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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MONDAY 10 NOV 1990 - 15 NOV 1990

15 NOV 1990 - 12 JAN 1991

PREVIEWS 15-21 NOV 1990

OPENS 22 NOV 1990

KILBURN HIGH ROAD NW5

JUST SO

MUSIC BY GEORGE STILES WORDS BY ANTHONY DREW

A CAMERON MACKINTOSH TRICICLE THEATRE PRESENTATION

BOX OFFICE 071 328 1000

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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

- 7.00 Crystal Tipps and Allstar. Cartoon about a girl and her dog. 7.05 Jimbo's Story Time. Cartoon series (7.30 Paddington Peas) (7.35 Babar. Cartoon about a young elephant. 8.00 Breakfast Serials. Five series for children each starring Caroline Berry, John Higgins, Lucy Jenkins and William Petrie. 8.35 Bravestarr. Cartoon antics in outer space (r). 9.00 Going Live! Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene overflow with bounce and fun as they present the energetic programme for kids, with guests Bob Geldof, Debbie Gibson and Thelma Barlow, who plays Nelly in Coronation Street.
- 11.15 The Lord Mayor's Show. Lots of pomp and ceremony with the annual two-mile procession through the City of London. Eric Robson is the man with the mike describing marching bands, military detachments, colourful floats and the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Alexander Gilmour, travelling in his golden coach to take his oath of office. 12.17 Weather
- 12.20 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lyman. The line-up (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: the goals from the week's European competitions; 12.25 and 1.00 Rowing: the world championships from Tasmania; 12.40, 1.15 and 1.50 Racing from Cheltenham including the Mackeson Gold Cup at 1.55; 12.55 News; 1.30 Rallying: the Mobil 1 Rally Challenge, round three; 2.10 Rugby League: coverage of the game at Clee Field between Great Britain and Australia; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.00 Rugby Union: highlights of the



Breathless enthusiasm: Annette Rice (7.25pm)

BBC 2

- 9.00 Open University: Sandra's Story 9.25 Business to Business 9.50 A Bigger Europe for the Smaller Business 10.15 Mental Handicap: No Problem's Too Big
- 10.40 Endless Summer. Photographer Matti Luoma's ravishing relookers from Devon rural life through sunbathing old farm buildings, beach abodes and sunsets. 11.10 Parallel of a Sporting Life. Dem Bones. Dem Bones. Series looking at sporting injuries. This morning Dutch experts look at ankle fractures (r).
- 11.25 Balloon. First of a series of six balloon flights over various parts of Britain, starting with the Midlands. With Sue Beardmore and piloting the balloon, Mike Kendrick (r).
- 11.55 The Honeymooners (b/w) Classic American comedy starring Jackie Gleason.
- 12.20 Film: Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933, b/w) Warren William, Joan Blondell and Ginger Rogers star in this big and bouncy Warner Brothers musical about a gold-digging young showgirl. Somehow the plot manages to include the players planning a Broadway show, but this is forgivable thanks to the competence and enthusiasm of the showmanship. With choreography by Busby Berkeley and directed by Mervyn LeRoy.
- 1.56 Discoveries Underwater. Series about underwater exploration. The search begins for traces of prehistoric humans in Scottish lochs, Swiss lakes and Florida caves (r).
- 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 26 of the 91-part Indian drama, in Hindi with English subtitles

game at Murrayfield between Scotland and Argentina; 4.40 Final Score 5.00 News with Morna Stuart. Weather 5.10 Regional news and sport. Wales (7.35) Wales on Saturday 5.15 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill (r) 5.35 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow. Noel and his crew visit the British Astronauts' Training School, where they are joined by comedian Billy Pearce, and Sir David Steel participates in the "gunge" game.

6.20 Every Second Counts. Paul Daniels hosts the quiz for couples 6.55 Russ Abbott. With the final instalment of the Thick Family Robinson and the premiere of the Smell of Music. (Ceefax)

8.15 All Creatures Great and Small. Pleasant Yorkshire verve drama with characters as curious as their parents' ailments, based on the books by James Herriot. (Ceefax)

9.05 News with Philip Hayton. Sport and weather

9.25 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Members of the Royal British Legion gather in the Albert Hall for their annual Festival of Remembrance with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother in attendance. The Service of Remembrance is conducted by the Rev Michael Mann, with Raymond Baxter providing the commentary.

10.55 Film: Herem (1969) Sleazy tale of sand and seduction with Ben Kingsley as the sensitive sheikh who kidnaps New Yorker Nastassja Kinski and sweeps her off to his desert palace. But, Kinski discovers, there is a funny old game in store, for the amorous Arab is more interested in making her fall in love with him than in any honky pinky. Directed by Arthur Joffe. (Ceefax)

4.45 Results Service presented by Elton Welsby

7.25 Challenge Anneka.

● CHOICE: The ability of Anneka Rice to get instant responses to seemingly impossible demands suggests that she is well on a mere Saturday evening entertainment. Her next challenge should be to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait and after that to sort out the Soviet economy. Meanwhile she undertakes the less daunting task of organising huge parties

Rice to get instant responses to seemingly impossible demands suggests that she is well on a mere Saturday evening entertainment. Her next challenge should be to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait and after that to sort out the Soviet economy.

Meanwhile she undertakes the less daunting task of organising huge parties

12.30pm Weather

3.25 Film: Sweet Charity (1968) starring Shirley MacLaine, Ricardo Montalban and Sammy Davis Jr. A triumphant directing debut for former

choreographer, Bob Fosse, with the musical about a tart with a heart of gold who falls for a naive young man who is unaware that she earns her living as a hostess in a sleazy barroom. (Ceefax)

5.45 Mexico Vivo. Final part of the introduction to Latin American Spanish. Presented by Patricia de la Peña.

6.10 Late Again. Highlights from the week's The Late Show.

6.55 NewsView with Morna Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

7.40 The Ring of the Nibelung. Siegfried, Act 2 continuing Richard Wagner's opera. Eikheide Wäschke, Robert Hale and René Kollo are accompanied by the Bavarian State Opera and Chorus conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch.

9.05 Saturday Night Clive. Clive James takes a tongue-in-cheek look at television from around the world. His studio guest is David Frost.

9.50 Moving Pictures. American director Peter Bogdanovich talks to presenter Kate Leyte about his new film Texasville, the long-awaited sequel which reunites the cast of The Last Picture Show, shown at 11.30pm. There is also a profile of African film-maker Idrissa Ouedraogo.

10.40 Twin Peaks. Another chance to see episode three of David Lynch's mindbending cult classic. Agent Cooper dreams that Laura whispers the name of her killer in his ear. Will his intuition prove correct? There are dubious goings-on in the woods, a grief-stricken father and a dancing dwarf. (Ceefax)

6.00 Comic Book. Cartoons with Aquaman, Dr Snuggles and the Mighty Thor

7.30 News summary

7.35 International Times. ITN reporters from around the world with reports on the latest news

8.00 Transworld Sport. International sporting news and interviews

9.00 News summary

9.05 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line. A review of the past week's action and a preview of the weekend's racing programme

9.25 Sing and Swing. Performances by jazz greats of the Thirties and Forties

9.30 The Price Difference. Abby Cross and Mark Tredinnick discuss the series on disabled masters (r)

10.00 Check Out. A repeat of Tuesday's programme which included an item on private camping companies and an interview with the health minister Virginia Bottomley. Presented by Sianie Guha, Sarah Spiller and John Walton. (Teletext)

10.30 Film: Judge Hardy and Son (1939, b/w) starring Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone and Fay Holden. MGM's family saga continues with Mickey Rooney as Andy, here trying to earn some cash by tracking down a missing woman for his father, and getting his girlfriends to help with an essay competition.

Directed by George B. Seitz.

12.10 Rockshaw Man. A short English language film from Belgium about a young man earning a living with his push bike. While escaping poverty, his unusual taxi service leads him into some strange situations

12.25 American Football: Red 42. Weekly magazine programme about American football, with Gary Imach and Mick Luckhurst (r)

12.55 Channel Four Racing from Doncaster. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the El Alamein Nursery Handicap (1.00); the Remembrance Day Stakes (1.30); the William Hill November Handicap (2.00) and the George Farndon Handicap (2.35).

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Motormouth. Young people's entertainment presented by Neil Buchanan, Andy Crane and Gaby Roslin. This week's guests include Craig McLachlan and Horse and there is an item on computer games

11.30 The ITV Chat Show. The vintage video slot features Phil Collins 12.30 Post Frocks & New Trouzers (r) (r)

1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

1.05 LWT News and weather

1.10 Sam & Givens. Ian St John and Jeremy Givens give up-to-date details and commentary on the sports scene

1.40 Sportsmaster. Sports quiz

2.10 Film: The Locators (1966) Frederick Stafford as an expert safe-cracker who is forced by revolutionaries to help in a heist on a ruthless Caribbean president's palace. Efficient thriller, co-starring Jean Seberg. Directed by Jacques Bresserard.

4.00 International Rugby Union. Alastair Hignell presents highlights of the game at the Parc des Princes, Paris, between France and New Zealand. The commentator is Bob Symonds with expert comment from Gerald Davies

4.45 Results Service presented by Elton Welsby

5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather

5.15 Disney Cartoon Time

5.25 The New Adventures of Black Beauty: Horse Sense. Marmed helps Vicki by taking over her mare round until a letter disappears. Starring Stacy Domingo and Amber McWilliams

5.55 Catchphrase. Roy Walker hosts the computer quiz game

6.25 Blind Date. Once compulsory viewing, Cilla Black's matchmaking show is now painfully predictable. (Oracle)

7.26 Beadle's About. Jeremy Beadle organises juvenile japes in which members of the public are set up by their so-called friends

7.55 Stay Lucky. Bigamy Blues. In the last of the likeable series about the squabbling couple who like each other really, Sally's past catches up with her and threatens to destroy her future. Starring Dennis Waterman and Jan Francis. (Oracle)

9.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Sport and weather 9.15 LWT Weather

9.20 Film: Aliens (1986) Sigourney Weaver stars in this one-horror movie as the sole survivor of a mission to the planet with gruesome creatures who killed her shipmates. She returns, this time bringing a crack squad of marines bent on destroying every

last trace of the alien species. However, the gung-ho tendency to change into unknown situations leads them into more trouble than they could ever have envisaged. Unusually for a sequel, the film is as powerful as its original, with an intensity matching other works of the director James Cameron, such as *The Terminator*. Also starring Carrie Fisher and Michael Biehn. (Oracle)

11.55 Phillip Marlowe - Private Eye:

Guns at Cyrano's Marlowe is hired by a heavy to find out who is threatening a young boxer. Unfortunately, Marlowe is attracted to the heavy's beautiful girlfriend, which complicates matters. Starring Powers Boothe and Roxanne Hart. Followed by News headlines

12.50am The Best of the Beat Club. Featured artists include Ike and Tina Turner and the Everly Brothers

1.50 The Time Tunnel. The time travellers Doug and Tony find themselves in Nottingham at the time of the conflict between King John and Robin Hood (r)

2.50 American College Football. Miami v Florida State

4.00 The Hit Man And Her Mate

Waterman and Michaels Strachan with the latest disco news, fashions and music

5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00



Pointing the way: a Chinese guide (8.00pm)

9.00 LA Law: Simian Chanted Evening. Glossy American drama based around a Los Angeles law firm in Los Angeles

10.00 Film: The Emigrants (1986, b/w).

The second part of the autobiographical trilogy of writer Georg Stefan Troller, showing the flight of German Jews from Nazi persecution. Ferry has made his escape to America with Freddy. But Freddy is fighting for survival in New York's underworld, and is filled with memories of the Europe he left behind, which is fast being destroyed. Directed by Axel Corti.

12.15am The Week with Jonathan Ross.

The high and low points from the week's Tongue with Jonathan Ross

12.45 Snopes: The Sagittarian Candidate. Comedy thriller drama series about a noisy couple who meddle in things and often end up in sticky situations. Chandra and Nicky run their fourth wedding anniversary celebration in the pursuit of the murderer of a wealthy Washington socialist. A prime suspect is a US congressman, but the only fresh clue is a series of personal horoscopes

1.40 The Word. A repeat of Friday's edition which included Boy George and Whitney Houston. Ends at 2.40

SATELLITE

12.30pm France 3/BBC The Week 1.30 Those were the Days 2.30 Target 4.30 Those were the Days

SKY ONE

- 6.00pm Barber Rest 8.30 The Flying Kite 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bone Women 12.00 Beyond 2000 1.00 2000 Choppe Squad 2.00 WWF Wrestling 3.00 2000 4.00 Sport 4.00 News 5.00 5.30 Frank Bough This Week 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 The Reporters 12.30pm Racing Report 1.30 2.30 TV 2.30 Frank Bough This Week 3.30 4.00 Sport Report 4.30 Motor Sports News 5.00 Live at Five 5.30 Fashion TV 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Roving Report 8.30 Motor Sports News 10.30 Fashion TV 11.30 The Reporters

SKY NEWS

1.00pm Sky News: Die Hardbreak. 5.30 Newsline 5.30 The Reporters 5.30 Frank Bough This Week 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 The Reporters 12.30pm Racing Report 1.30 2.30 TV 2.30 Frank Bough This Week 3.30 4.00 Sport Report 4.30 Motor Sports News 5.00 Live at Five 5.30 Fashion TV 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Roving Report 8.30 Motor Sports News 10.30 Fashion TV 11.30 The Reporters

EUROSPORT

- 8.00pm Eurosport 7.00 GM Lotus Euro Sport Masters Review 8.00 Pit Stop 9.00 Formula 1 Special 9.00 The Pit Stop 10.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher)

- 10.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 11.00 The Empire Strikes Back 12.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 1.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 2.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 3.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 4.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 5.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 6.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 7.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 8.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 9.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 10.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 11.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 12.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 1.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 2.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 3.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 4.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 5.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 6.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 7.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 8.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 9.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 10.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 11.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 12.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 1.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 2.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 3.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 4.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 5.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 6.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 7.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) 8.00 Star Wars (1977) Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher)

Jury fails to reach verdict in MP's case against Times

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HIGH Court jury failed yesterday to reach a verdict as to whether *The Times* had libelled the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, Brian Sedgemore.

Mr Sedgemore had sued the newspaper over an article written by his former parliamentary colleague, Robert Kilroy-Silk, about the Salman Rushdie affair. He alleged that the article meant that he was a "craven hypocrite and a

moral and political coward who, contrary to his previously stated position, was prepared to support the extension of the law of blasphemy and the suppression of free speech" in the wake of the Rushdie affair.

The Times and Mr Kilroy-Silk claimed that the article was fair comment based on an early day motion signed by Mr Sedgemore which "urged the Government to provide time to debate issues arising from *The Satanic Verses* controversy and draw attention to the need to reform the law of blasphemy to permit all religious faiths to seek legal redress or to repeal the law".

The jury of seven men and five women retired to consider their verdict at lunchtime yesterday, and returned to the court 2½ hours later to say that they had agreed unanimously that the article was defamatory and did constitute comment, but that they were unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to whether the comment was fair on the facts brought to their attention.

The judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, instructed them to continue to attempt to reach a unanimous verdict but directed that if that was impossible he would accept a verdict agreed by a majority of at least 10-2. One hour and twenty-five minutes later the jury were called in to court again and the foreman was asked whether they had reached a verdict. He replied: "No".

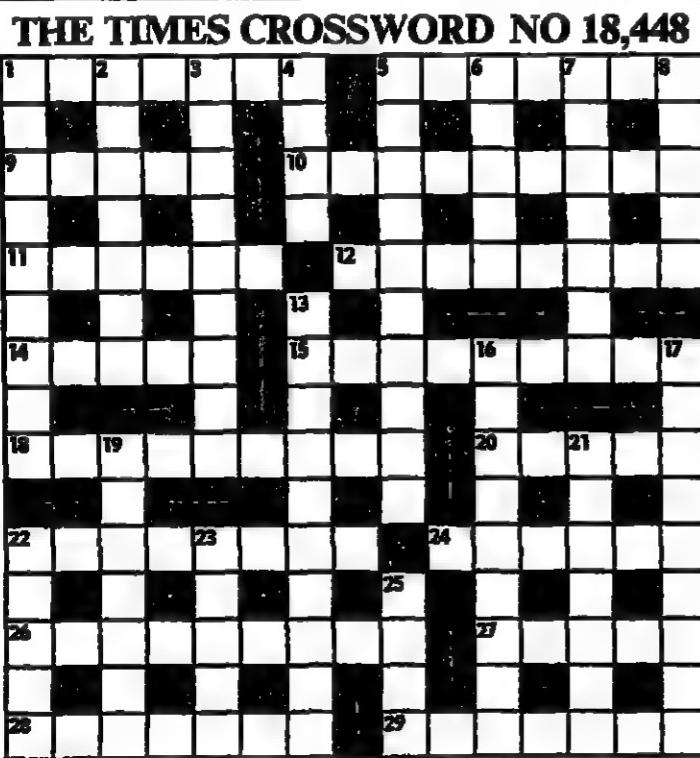
The judge asked: "Are your problems or difficulties in any way due to lack of understanding of the law or the evidence, or anything on which I can advise you?"

The foreman said they were not, and when the judge asked whether there was any hope that they would reach a verdict given time today, the foreman said his honest opinion was that their differences were irreconcilable.

The judge said it was very sad, but appeared to be "a hopeless case". He discharged the jury from any further decision in the case.

Mr Justice Michael Davies, in his final case, agreed with Richard Hartley QC, representing *The Times* and Mr Kilroy-Silk, that the question of costs of the five-day trial would have to await the outcome of the retrial.

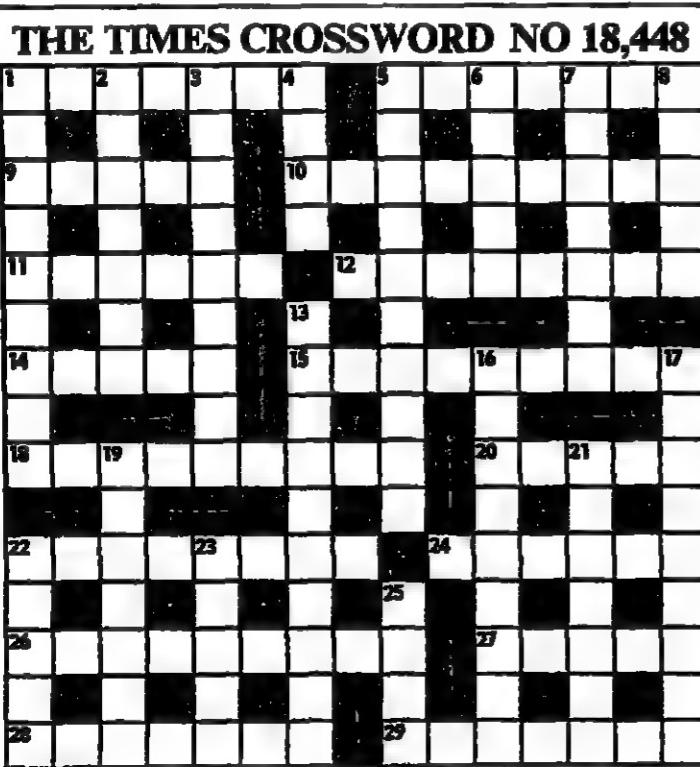
House of Lords select committee on European Communities. 27th report. *Economic and Monetary Union and Political Union* (Stationery Office, £12.50)



Prayers at peace: Children from St James's Church of England School in Coldingham, West Sussex, sit in a prayer service yesterday in a clearing provided with a cross, symbolic mountain, well and altar as an outdoor venue for meditation and spiritual renewal. The "woodland church" has recently undergone

its own renewal after the devastating winter storms of recent years (Keith Gledhill writes). The Rev Roger Hodgson, the vicar, said yesterday that the church, used for school assemblies and Sunday services, had now grown back to its former glory. The church expressed a new interpretation of the epistles of St

James in the New Testament, which he expounds in a book, *Introducing Vis: The Most Rev Trevor Huddleston*, former Archbishop of the Indian Ocean, says in the foreword: "Any book which can help people think again about fundamentals of the Christian life in a new way is of real value."



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MONTREAUX

1. A mountain path
2. A bullfighter's cap
3. A tax on travellers

STOOTH

1. Drought
2. A stockyard
3. Theft

DODDIE

1. A giant idiot
2. A palauquin
3. To fritter time away

TATH

1. Cattle dung
2. A running postman
3. Test in a series

Answers on page 15

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Northants, Beds, Herts & Essex ... 707

Shropshire, Herefs & Warks ... 710

Central Midlands ... 711

East Midlands ... 712

Lincs & Humberside ... 713

Dyfed & Powys ... 714

Gwynedd & Cymdwyd ... 715

N W & S Yorks & Dales ... 717

N E England ... 718

Cumbria & Lake District ... 719

S W Scotland ... 720

Wales ... 721

Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders ... 722

E Central Scotland ... 723

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N W Scotland ... 725

Orkney, Shetland & N Ireland ... 727

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- SPORT 27-33
- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-39
- WEEKEND MONEY 44-44

SUMMARY
Probyn is cleared



THE Rugby Football Union announced yesterday that no further disciplinary action was required over Jeff Probyn (above), the England prop who was the subject of an enquiry after a stamping incident during the international against Argentina at Twickenham last weekend.

In the same incident Federico Méndez, the Argentine prop, was sent off for punching, though it was claimed afterwards that he had been provoked. In clearing Probyn, the RFU warned of the risk of drawing the wrong conclusions from television Page 31

FOOTBALL

Young hopes

WHERE will the next generation of England players come from? What purpose, if any, does the under-21 team serve? Clive White examines the role of the junior team and assesses its likely importance to the plans of Graham Taylor, the England manager Page 29

SNOOKER

Pocket money



ALLISON Fisher (above), pursues a third women's world championship and a cheque for £10,000 at the Waldorf Hotel, London, this weekend. She plays Karen Corr, who recently beat Fisher in the British championship, for a place in the final tomorrow Page 31

TENNIS

Out of court

BAD luck continues to disrupt the Diet Pepsi challenge tournament at Wembley this week. Yesterday, the No. 2 seed, Goran Ivanisevic, of Yugoslavia, pulled out of his quarter-final with influenza. His withdrawal follows that of Pete Sampras, the US Open champion and No. 1 seed, with shin splints Page 28

RUGBY LEAGUE

Waiting game



ELLERY Hanley (above) and his team go into the second international at Old Trafford today seeking to become the first Great Britain side to win a series against Australia for 20 years. The performance which brought a 19-12 victory at Wembley two weeks ago provided grounds for optimism but the Australians can be expected to offer stern resistance Page 30

RACING

Bad break

PETER Scudamore, the reigning National Hunt champion jockey, broke his left leg when Black Humour, trained by Charlie Brooks, fell at Market Rasen yesterday. Earlier, Scudamore had ridden two winners at the meeting. Massingham and Invasion, on whom he depisted for Mark Dwyer, who had been taken to hospital with injuries after a fall Page 32

SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 1990

Gascoigne gives Taylor a dilemma to resolve

BY DAVID MILLER

WHAT should Graham Taylor do with Paul Gascoigne? It is a question that must be shouldering in his mind as he plans his formation to meet the Republic of Ireland in a European championship qualifying tie in Dublin on Wednesday. Would it make sense, in the circumstances, he must be wondering, to drop him?

That is not quite as daft as it may at first appear, concerning a player not erroneously dubbed by the former England manager, as *daft as a brush*. Gascoigne, darling of the terraces though he may be, is somewhat slow in growing up; and I am not talking about his actions off the field in many directions, which are undoubtedly a drain on his energy.

The harsh fact, recognised by anyone who has watched Gascoigne this season and understands the game, is that he is not relating his play to the rest of the team, whether it is Tottenham Hotspur or England. He may be an outstanding player and the leading goalscorer for his club, but this makes the issue all the more frustrating.

In the opening European tie at home to Poland last month, which England ultimately won comfortably enough, Taylor was of the opinion that England played with 10 men. The missing man was Gascoigne, who was on the pitch, sure enough, but was absent from the heart of the tactical battle. It left Taylor worried.

With Tottenham, Gascoigne's preoccupation with his own intentions, as opposed to the team's at times, have sent Lineker up the metaphoric wall. George Best may have done the same to Bobby Charlton at Old Trafford, but Best was himself the forward *par excellence*.

Gascoigne runs this way, he runs that. And the ball never comes for Lineker. Gascoigne is off on some private excursion, rousing the terraces but too often not allowing his colleagues to join him on the trip.

I saw it happen against Nottingham Forest, where, after 15 minutes of juggling and exhibition sprints, Gascoigne disappeared for 20 minutes. Taylor knows that he cannot afford such a passenger, however talented potentially, against the Republic next Wednesday, in what will be in his description "a typical English cup tie".

Taylor, I suspect, is confronted with an awkward dilemma: that agonising kind of choice facing the international manager who has one match every two or three months rather than one a week, when you can correct in training on Monday what was wrong on Saturday.

Does Taylor, on the one hand, include Gascoigne and risk the possibility that he will be a sleeping partner in the critical balance of the opposition's midfield, where lies the secret of so much of the Republic's success under Jack Charlton; or that he will be provoked into losing his temper, an occurrence regularly close to the surface?

On the other hand, does he leave him out, and risk the wrath, scorn and ridicule of the tabloid press, the hysteria of which tends to diminish rather than enhance the establishment of the successful team for which they — for which we all — continually clamour?

The problem with Gascoigne is that with his lack of speed he can be put out of the game, and that will be Ireland's intention: during



A word in his ear: Taylor takes Gascoigne aside for advice on where he is going wrong for England

Taylor will hardly relish the prospect of being called a "blindfolded wally" before the match and then, if England should lose without Gascoigne, being condemned as an ignorant idiot afterwards. It is common knowledge that the tabloid press go for headlines first and logic last.

Yet the logic is there. The Republic set out from the start of any match to stop the other team's midfield from operating, to force the opposition to attack from so far away that it cannot hurt their suspect defence. Look at what they did to Hagi in the World Cup defeat of Romania, and nearly did to Italy in the quarter-final.

The problem with Gascoigne is that with his lack of speed he can be put out of the game, and that will be Ireland's intention: during

a match, which in all probability will be as inelegant as that awful encounter in Cagliari ... where Townsend smothered Gascoigne. Taylor wants to avoid a similar stranglehold this time.

Gascoigne is not a poor competitor in the sense that he gives up. His surging run in extra time that foiled the despairing foul by Geerts, of Belgium, and produced the free-kick that won the match, was one of the finest memories of the World Cup. Gascoigne's other problem, besides lack of speed, is that, brush-off, he has no concentration.

I would not want Taylor's dilemma over the next 48 hours, but that is one of the reasons he is paid so well. I suspect he will play safe with the public, rather than with the tactics. I hope Gascoigne does not let him down.

Greenwood and then Bobby Robson tended to exclude Hoddle, marvellous manipulator of the ball but a poor competitor.

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I would not want Taylor's dilemma over the next 48 hours, but that is one of the reasons he is paid so well. I suspect he will play safe with the public, rather than with the tactics. I hope Gascoigne does not let him down.

Spectacular success on the slopes

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

The new-fangled broomballs just aren't the same as the old corn brooms. (Why was the change made? I'm noplased). Rod Hunter, the media relations director for the northern Alberta association, summed it up for us all: "The corn broom itself leads not only the spectacle of two good sweepers sweeping. It also — as some people don't like — deposits a certain amount of debris on the ice, which makes the ice swingier. With swingy ice, you get more exciting games." But the cost, the cost: a horsehair broom costs \$39 and can last a lifetime; a corn broom costs \$24, but, in the hands of a truly dynamic sweeper, will only last a couple of games. And the corn brooms just aren't as easy to cheat with as the new ones. Brad Hannah, an Edmonton curler and a confirmed corn-broomer, said: "There's so much controversy over rules of using these dang brooms. With all the cash up for grabs, the rules have been bent."

Democracy triumphs

Racing is not the world's most democratic sport, but I suppose this is democracy of a sort. The stewards were dissatisfied with the running of one of the Queen's horses and levied £600 worth of fine. The beast in question, Chestnut Tree,

was in breach of rule 151, failing to "run on its merits". The men who had to cough up were William Hastings-Bass, one of the Queen's principal trainers, a man who recently inherited the title Earl of Huntingdon, and the jockey, Dale Gibson. They were hit with £300 each for their unseemly handling of Her Majesty's property.

Meanwhile, my racing snout, a man who seems to have lived a recent month in a state of astimulation, has roused himself with the commencement of serious jump-racing. He rather fancies a beast called New Haven for the Hennessy Gold Cup today.

Borg proves a point

The comeback of Bjorn Borg continues — at a pace of the old champion's choosing, and with the weapons he prefers. None of those fancy modern graphite rackets for him. He is practising hard with his old wooden excalibur. He tried the space-age stuff in exhibitions a few years back, but couldn't get on with them. The bats with which Pete Sampras serves at 125mph are not for him. "Bjorn told me he lost control on the third or fourth stroke in a rally," Percy Rosher, who was Bjorn's first coach, said. Bjorn himself said: "I tested other rackets, but I feel at ease with my old one." Many players claim it is impossible to play top-class tennis with a wooden racket nowadays. "I know it's possible," Borg said. He retired at 26, is now 34, and denies that he needs the money. "When I retired, I was not putting in 100 per cent every match," he said. "Now, mentally, I feel strong

for tennis and I want to put my mind back into it. I want to play in my mind and my mind was always my strength."

Wide of the mark

On Wilson retires as head coach of the MCC in a fortnight. Looking back over the various ground-staff boys who have worked with him, he recalled one lad who was with him for six months in 1977. "I thought he couldn't bowl," Wilson said. There are few more respected coaches than Wilson. The lad, of course, was L. T. Botham. "What a mistake," Wilson mused.

Camels come of age

Has camel racing come of age? Last weekend saw what is believed to be the first full camel racing championships held in Africa, or perhaps in the world. This was the Maralal International Camel Derby, which was held in the semi-arid northeastern province of Kenya. It brought in riders from Britain, the United States, Germany and Australia, though quite what most of these countries have to do with camels eludes me. More than 70 riders took part. The long-term aim is to increase the racing distance, so that races take place over 1,000km — a more accurate reflection of a camel's genuine abilities than a quick gimmicky sprint. I have a notion: let us ban the intrusive and lethal Paris-Dakar rally, and replace it with a camel marathon. This is the column that supports camels.

Sorry England count cost of Gooch decision

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT ADELAIDE

AN UNACCOUNTABLE decision was compounded by an unacceptable performance here yesterday and, consequently, England relapsed still further from the health they would wish to be in the Ashes series looms.

In these early weeks of the tour, when the opportunities to discover form and rhythm are barely adequate, winning the toss at the Adelaide Oval seemed happily providential. Choosing to bowl first seemed, in the circumstances, either curiously cautious or crazily cavalier.

Eight years ago, on this same ground, Bob Willis allowed his own batsmen to persuade him that he should insert Australia. It was a catastrophic decision which cost England the match and, ultimately, the series, and Willis has never forgiven himself. Graham Gooch's insertion yesterday does not have quite the same scope for disaster, but it has handed over the initiative in a match England needed to control.

South Australia did not spurn the invitation and, nor, on the usual, easy-paced pitch here, were they likely to. By the close of the first day, they were 316 for three and heading for the sort of total which will ensure that the only way England can get two innings in this game is by following on. As the priority has to be to improve the shaky form of the top-order batting, this is not the ideal scenario.

The thinking of Gooch and his inner circle was apparently that the Adelaide pitch does not deteriorate and only offers the faster bowlers any help on the first morning. A thin motive for a rash act.

Gooch knew, before the day was very old, that he would not be vindicated by his bowlers. Of the three chosen seamers, only Malcolm offered any menace to the batsmen. Lewis could not control his line nor Bicknell his length.

Up to lunch, England looked a moderate outfit. In the afternoon session, they did not look that good. Indeed, it was only when the second new ball was taken, half-an-hour before stumps, that a record-breaking second-wicket partnership was curtailed at a cost of 275 and Bicknell and Lewis began to show the quality which brought them here.

Gooch was even obliged to take what he regards as the last resort and bowl himself after tea. It is inconceivable that, by then, he was either sanguine about his decision on the toss or satisfied with his team's output, both with the ball and in the field.

England's captain has been offered many opportunities this week to excuse his team's shortcomings with the truism that tours invariably have early hiccups. To his credit, he has refused. "It's easy to say that but it gets us nowhere," he insists. "We only have a certain amount of time to get things right and we have to make the best use of it."

On a two-sweater day — grey, blustery and about as inviting as Northampton in April — standing in the field for six hours while Bishop and Nobes broke a 68-year-old record for the biggest South Australian stand against England, was not time usefully employed.

They came together in the eleventh over, after Malcolm had surprised Hilditch the state's new captain, with a ball which lifted above stump height. Soon the tall, correct Bishop and his squat, unorthodox partner were being nourished by a wayward spell from Bicknell, who strained visibility for extra speed and suffered the penalty.

Bishop should have been run out when 37, but the pick-up and throw from Larkins at square-leg were scruffy. After lunch Atherton, put down two catches at first slip, though one was from a no-ball, and England plainly still have as many problems in this department as elsewhere.

Hemmings, charged with doing no more than contain, applied a partially effective brake, but 102 runs still came in the session and, as evening approached, the taking of a second wicket seemed a remote ambition.

The eleventh century of Bishop's career was also his fifth against touring teams. Nobes, aged 26, comfortably the youngest batsman in the state's side, was completing only his second century in a first-class career of three seasons. He had been batting almost five hours when his confidence got the better of him and an extravagant drive to Bicknell's second delivery with the new ball was edged to Russell.

The advent of Hookes, who made 195 against Queensland a week ago, did not hold the promise of better times for England, but Lewis, moving the ball sharply, removed him with the final ball of the day. Gower's catch at second slip was no mean effort for one whose hands must by now have been freezing and whose mind may understandably have been focused on the frustrations of a day which might have been made for his own batting purpose.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AUSTRALIA		First Innings
M J Hilditch	c Nobes b Malcolm	14
G A Bishop not out		145
P Nobes c Russell b Bicknell		131
D W Hookes c Gower b Lewis		6
Extras (1d 14, no 5)		19
Total (3 wkt)		316
All B Phillips, P R Steep, J Soden, T Nielsen, T B A May, C Miles, D Hickay		

FALL OF WICKETS 1-23 2-296 3-318
BOWLING: Malcolm 20-2 78.1 Lavers 22-5 1-73-1 (nb 5); Bicknell 18-2 70.1 Hemmings 21-8-48-0; Gooch 9-3-20-0 Atherton 4-0-13-0

ENGLAND XI-13 A Gooch M A Atherton V Lavers D I Gower J E Morris A J Stewart, C C Lewis, M C Price, M P Bicknell, E Hemmings, D E Malcolm

Yousaf insures Pakistan, page 32

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An Department for Enterprise

Time has come to blow whistle on drugs

The drug problem has again raised its ugly head. Just when you might have thought it was safe once more to talk about the noble art of track and field, two leading athletes were caught by the testers and are now banned for two years.

This comes after one of the finest European championships, in Split, for many years. Their quality may have had much to do with the crackdown on drugs in the last two years. We take one step forward, and then another one back.

It is fair to say that many of us had long suspected that, beneath the surface, there were problems in American athletics at distances up to 400 metres. Carl Lewis's recent comments (in and out of his book) seem to have been supported by events. I suppose you have also to say that we can now understand the ups and downs in Harry "Butch" Reynolds's form. In the case of Randy Barnes, the shot putter, we are transported

back to the days when the public believed that all the putters were on drugs anyway. No doubt those old suspicions will resurface, affecting everyone doing the event and that will be an extra and unfair pressure on many good and responsible athletes.

What do these two new cases mean, for the sport? What is the "state of play"?

I do not know the details of these cases, so I cannot make definitive comment, but I look back to 1987 and my report on the misuse of drugs with the then minister, Colin Moynihan.

Our report led to random and independent testing and to greater stringency all round. But, of course, a heavy responsibility rests, as ever, with the sportsmen and women themselves, as well as with their managers and advisers (and, I would say, their family and close friends) – and, of course, the administrators of the sport.

It is two Americans who have been caught, so some may argue



COMMENT

SEBASTIAN COE

that it is only the United States officials who have an inquiry to run. Historically, the United States was slow into this vital field of drug testing.

In 1984, when Los Angeles was preparing for the Olympic Games, there was both pressure and embarrassment between the United States and Lausanne because the Americans did not have a single accredited testing centre.

However, can we dismiss this fresh outbreak as just a little local, American, difficulty?

I doubt it; that doubt may make me unpopular with British officials, and others in the international federations, but modern

sport at the top is a global village. Figures of the stature of Reynolds and Barnes have friends and "colleagues" everywhere, because they travel extensively, particularly in Europe. It seems unlikely that there are only two offenders in the sport and they both just happen to be American.

I hope nobody will make that too-comfortable assumption, either here or elsewhere. Investigations ought to be general. They should also be thorough.

The problem with drugs in sport is two-fold. First, they can affect performance – at least, in the short term. They are to cheats in sport what the marked card is to the crooked poker player. Second,

they can be hard to trace and

detect. The unscrupulous can take careful precautions and thus evade suspicion, perhaps for a long time.

When I was competing, rumour was part of the conversation at the track, in the hotels, and so on.

Athletes are not stupid. They quickly notice abnormal physical changes in another athlete from one season to another. Suddenly, "X" has shoulders that would carry him or her through five rounds with Marvin Hagler. If you are as close as athletes get to each other in training, or especially in competition, you are not likely to miss changes of that kind. The public may not retain the same images from six months earlier, or at least not as sharply.

Sometimes, such changes may be the butt of jokes or there may just be a discreet silence. But one athlete will not "shop" another. In any case, in such a serious matter, we all know that hard evidence is needed.

It is not just the ban. The records have also to be changed. We learn that Reynolds and Barnes will retain their world record status. That is wrong, on the wrong decision and one that, in all the other competitions, is then events.

If drug abuse is still happening in British and European sport and these comments cannot be just about athletics – then, what can we do?

Yet probably, attitude is the major issue. Sport, from top to bottom, has to decide that drugs and drug users are beyond the pale. We all have to agree that very, very plain, it mustn't happen. I'm not talking about a "rich hunt", because that would be irresponsible, but, perhaps, there has to be some form of enquiry, whenever there are grounds for suspicion.

Perhaps competition, once at last, to save to blow the whistle on the nervously official tone of foot play.

JUDO

Prize-money may bring British exponents off dole

NICOLAS SOYERS says the likely introduction of rewards will

1981 world feather-weight champion and now one of the leading younger coaches to the Japanese national team, says:

"The All Japan Judo Association has been discussing the issue and further discussions will take place. The general feeling in Japan is that 'we don't like money tournaments because it is not part of judo tradition.'

"However, we realise that because of the wealth of our country, and our university system, our top exponents do not need to fight for money. But in Africa and in other countries, the situation is very different. They need money."

Dennis White, of Wolverhampton, the European middle-weight bronze medal-winner, and Nigel Donohue, the European bantamweight silver medal-winner, have been invited, although only White has accepted. Donohue is still in the United States training after winning the American Open last week.

One special invitation has also gone to Ray Stevens, the London high-jumper, who distinguished himself in the European team championships in Dubrovnik two weeks ago.

"There have been occasional professional tournaments in recent years – almost all in France – but none has received the official sanction of a body such as the EJU, despite many leading figures supporting the idea.

Nell Adams, the 1981 world champion who won the European championships six times, says: "I think it's a great idea. I am just sorry it came too late for me. I don't understand why there is all this discussion when professional tennis started in 1969. They said it would change tennis and it did."

"But there are still amateurs and there will always be amateurs. Why shouldn't people who train full-time – which is what you have to do to win medals at the top event – be able to earn money? It is just like a job."

Jean-Luc Rouje, the technical director of the French Federation, second only to the Japanese Federation in size, is fully behind the prize-money events. He raises another issue, saying:

"Whether we like it or not, television and newspapers pay more attention to events where prize-money is involved, and judo needs as much publicity as it can get."

The Konica Cup is organised in weight categories in normal European events. The four medallists in each of the seven categories from the European championships in Frankfurt in May have been invited to participate and most will do so. But although the Japanese were invited to send a team, they refused.

Katsuhiko Kashiwazaki, the

surprise visitor: Nurgiso, of Italy, on his way to his sixth successive Wembley win



Italian player, ranked No. 200 in world, turns his year around

Italian player, ranked No. 200 in world, turns his year around

Ivanisevic succumbs to flu and adds to Wembley's woes

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER losing their top two seeds through injury in the space of a day, few would blame the organisers of the Diet Pepsi Challenge if they left Wembley and never came back. Yesterday, following the departure of Peter Sampras with sore shins, Goran Ivanisevic retired from his quarter-final with Jakob Hlasek after five games. Dispatches from the Wembley Arena are beginning to read like medical bulletins.

Ivanisevic, of Yugoslavia, had apparently been suffering from flu and had only barely managed to complete his second-round match against Nicklas Sehl, in which he was notably off colour in tone and temper, because he was winning.

Hlasek was a different proposition and, having lost four of the first five games, Ivanisevic shook hands and walked away, giving up the chance of qualifying on merit for the eight-man ATP Tour finals in Frankfurt next week as he did so. To make sure of qualifying, Ivanisevic, ranked ninth in the world, had to win the tournament.

"I did not know that," he said afterwards. "I was feeling very bad in the previous match, but I won the first set and got an early break, so I said, 'OK, I'll try and play.' Today it was impossible. I felt dizzy and shaky and I didn't get to sleep until seven o'clock in the morning. In practice, I saw three balls. I was seeing everything double."

It was clear from the first game that all was not well with Ivanisevic. He looked sluggish.

Hlasek noticed it too. "He seemed not to be trying 100 per cent and I thought he hadn't really practised this

morning. I thought he was just tired. I have to admit I'm happy," Hlasek said.

Ivanisevic will have to sweat a little more before knowing whether he will get into the ATP Tour finals. First, he has to get fit himself; second, he has to wait for the verdict on Boris Becker's strained thighs and Sampras's sore shins.

Reports said that Becker felt worse than ever yesterday, but hoped to be able to practise today for the first time since pulling out of the finale of the Paris Open last weekend.

As the casualty list lengthened, there was at least one reported case of ecstasy. Before this tournament, Diego Nargiso, a qualifier and a former doubles partner of Ivanisevic, had not won a match on the ATP Tour since reaching the second round of the Italian Open in May. He came to London intent on playing qualifying and picking up some loose change in a change of pace.

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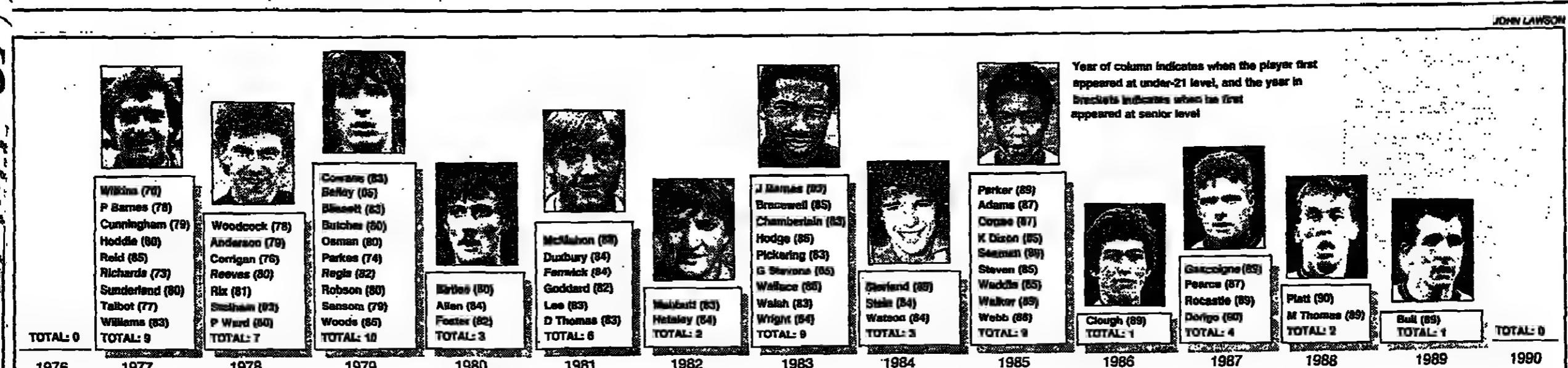
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Falling standards in football's nursery

IF THE capitulation of English footballers, north and south of the border, in Europe this week served any purpose it was to remove the misconception that has abounded since the World Cup finals that everything is hunky-dory with the game here.

The Soviet officials who saw to it in Milan that English luck in Italy this year finally ran out may have done us almost as much of a favour as their fellow countrymen who decided that the ball had crossed the line in 1966. Perhaps the burden of expectation will now not weigh quite so heavily on the shoulders of Graham Taylor, the new England manager, as he ponders where the next generation of footballers is coming from.

While the class of Italia '90 may be capable of giving reasonable account of themselves throughout the European championship qualifiers, which resume next week with an "A-level" examination in Dublin against the Republic of Ireland, too many of them will have graduated to the Old Boys XI by the time the United States World Cup comes round in

How many England under-21 footballers progress to the full international team?

Clive White reports on the passes and failures at England's preparatory school

1994. Sixteen of the squad of 22 announced this week for Dublin will be over 30 by then, many by more years.

The hype surrounding the emergence of Paul Gascoigne and to a much less suffocating degree, David Platt, both young players of prodigious talent, has painted a misleading picture of the overall standard of England's young players. Not since the advent of the Uefa under-21 championship in 1976-78 have English teams at this level looked more bereft of potential.

The 3-1 win which Taylor and

company kicked off with against Hungary was, possibly, a trifle flattering and owed much to the belated appearance of Robins, who scored two goals. The home defeat to Poland last month, England's first match in the new under-21 campaign, was ominous.

Lawrie McMenemy, who has been given responsibility for the under-21 side, which is in a little ironic since he made his reputation as a manager squeezing the last drop of goodness out of established players rather than taking too many chances on youth, blamed two factors, principally, for the failure: firstly, he blamed the poor crowd attendance at White Hart Lane which at 2,000 was the lowest for more than five years for a match of this kind, and secondly, the determination of the Poles to sell themselves to West European buyers.

If the squad of 18 for next Tuesday's match against the Republic in Cork is not short of potential, it is certainly short of recognisable names. It contains only three first division regulars — David Lee (Chelsea), John Ebbot

(Everton) and Nigel Jemson (Nottingham Forest) — and five from outside of the first division. Joe Royle, who returns to coach the side after missing the Poland defeat, described it as a squad "with a cross-section of experience". With all due respect his remark that "I wouldn't mind three of four of them at Oldham" did not say very much.

Taylor, a latter-day Prince Charming, has committed himself to scouring all corners of the country for players capable of slipping into the shoes of the present England team. Circulars were sent out to every club in the land asking them if they could recommend a player and replies have been received from about 70. "We don't necessarily think you've got to be in the first team of a first division club. We think a lad in any of the four divisions should think that he's got an opportunity," McMenemy said.

Five former managers and coaches, whose names have yet to be announced, are helping with the evaluation of players but it is a mammoth task. Then there is the problem of trying to test the best in a competitive environment.

"You want to look at as many as you can but also remain professional about it and win your games in the under-21 championship. It's difficult to keep changing the team and yet have results. When next week's match is over we'll spend the winter trying to formulate a plan," McMenemy said.

By barring over-age players, Uefa have turned their championship into much more of a competition and less of a vehicle for grooming young players. That may not be a good thing and certainly goes against the fashionable theory that the competitive element should be removed as much as possible from the lives of maturing young footballers.

Players like Marco Gabbiadini and Earl Barrett, who miss out because of the strict limitation on age, can only hope to gain further international experience in B games which Taylor and McMenemy are attempting to supplement with League representative matches like the one between the Barclays League and the Irish League at Windsor Park on Tuesday. "We're just trying to get a thread running through," McMenemy said.

England's record, mainly under Dave Sexton, in the seven under-21 championships to date, is second to none — winners twice and semi-finalists on four other occasions. But there have been signs of a decline since England last won in 1982-84 and for the first time in the last championship they failed to qualify for the finals.

More importantly, the number of players filtering through into the senior side has slowed dramatically as the table above indicates. Of the 256 players capped at under-21 level between 1976 and the end of last season, 66 have reached senior level, a success rate of 25 per cent though that figure may improve slightly over the next couple of years due to late developers. Even so, only eight in the last four years have gone on to bigger things and of those only Gascoigne, Platt and Stuart Pearce

could be described as fixtures in the senior side.

A few occasionally escape the under-21 net. Of those in the present squad of 22, Gary Lineker, Peter Beardsley, Gary Stevens, Lee Dixon and Ian Wright never appeared at the lower level.

There are also exceptions to the rule that it takes one to three years for those under-21 players who eventually graduate to reach senior recognition. Peter Reid's talent was mislaid for eight years between being honoured at the two levels while, Phil Parkes was capped as an over-age player at under-21 level five years after winning his one and only full cap.

Under-21 history is littered with players who were never heard of again in representative football, players like Cliff Carr (Fulham), Paul Haigh (Hull City) and Gary Lund (Grimsby Town). No doubt several of those in the current squad will fall by the wayside but unless Taylor's exhaustive search produces a higher ratio of successes than in recent years, England could end up as one of Europe's ugly sisters.

Uncompromising Reid puts reputation on line

By IAN ROSS

THERE is no doubt that Peter Reid's sense of personal disappointment at Howard Kendall's decision to leave Manchester City for Everton earlier this week, but it did not stop him from applying the uncompromising tactics of a different nature.

Within a matter of minutes of Kendall's controversial resignation, Peter Swales, the chairman, had promoted Reid from player-coach to caretaker manager.

The inference was that if City continued to prosper under the guidance of the former England international as they have done under Kendall, a permanent appointment was a distinct possibility.

Rather typically, Reid was having none of it. After publicly declaring a desire to become City's twelfth manager in 17 years, he issued his board of directors with a not-so-thinly veiled ultimatum, stating that he would take charge of team selection for tomorrow's televised game against Leeds United at Maine Road, but demanding a swift decision on his future with the club.

"Whatever Peter Swales and his directors decide, I am convinced that Reid will go on to be a force to be reckoned with in the coming weeks," said Wilkinson.

"We had a long chat during the European championships in West Germany a couple of years ago. I was impressed, not just by his fiery determination, but by his grasp of the practicalities of football. I realised then that he possessed the knowledge to

enjoy a bright future."

This feeling of respect for a fellow professional is a mutual affair for Reid is full of admiration for the manner in which Wilkinson has deftly transformed Leeds from an effective, if not particularly attractive, second division side into a polished first division side.

"Howard has done a tremendous job at Elland Road. He knew exactly what was required to get the club out of the second division and he built his side accordingly," Reid said. "He has managed to bring the gap between effort and skill and from what I have seen, Leeds are now playing some excellent football."

If nothing else, tomorrow's game will serve to dispel the notion that modern football is exclusively the domain of the youthful and the fleet of foot.

Reid, aged 34, will run the City midfield while Gordon Strachan, aged 33, will undertake a similar role for Leeds.

"People are constantly saying that once you have reached the age of 30 your legs have gone and you are finished," said Reid. "Players like Gordon continue to prove that there is, and never will be, any substitute for real class."

Jimmy Case, of Southampton, replaces Reid in the Football Writers' Association.

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have a bright future."

No one on the professional scene is hurt by the comment," Venglos said. "The Czechoslovak who succeeded me added diplomatically: 'I did not see the TV nor read the papers'."

The attitude was confirmed by the Villa captain, Stuart Gray, who said: "We know what Graham meant."

It could be argued that Reid's non-negotiable stance, which is in keeping with the impatience

of his successors, from San Siro came from

IN BRIEF
Boost for basketball

BASKETBALL may have its own European league in two years' time, to be run along similar lines to the US-based National Basketball Association (NBA).

The International Basketball Federation general secretary, Borislav Stankovic, said yesterday that he envisaged the starting date being 1992.

BOXING: The European Boxing Union has nominated James Cook, the British super-middleweight champion as No. 1 challenger to Maurizio Galvano, the European title holder.

TAENNIS: Thomas Muster, of Austria, due to compete in next week's ATP world championship finals, escaped injury yesterday when an East German tennis player driving overran during a motor rally.

Katarzyna Nowak, of Poland, received a sixth code violation of the week while losing in the final of the Texaco women's challenger tournament at Eastbourne yesterday.

EQUESTRIANISM

Edgar's speed brings first British success

From a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MAASTRICHT

TIME: Edgar earned the British team's first success of the Maastricht international, within the next 48 hours (Chris Moore writes).

VENGEANCE: The Mees Building Prize with Everett Sure Thing by almost a second, beat Conny (E Blaton) and David Broome, on countback.

RESULTS: Mees Building Prize 1, Everett Sure Thing (M Edgar, G Bl) 0.10s in 48.35 sec; 2, Conny (E Blaton, D Broome, G Bl) 0.10s; 3 & C Privilege (H Bourdy, Fr) 0.50s.

IN BRIEF: Da Ponte Cup second round: Japan 1, USA 0.10s.

DAHLIA team

Australians make six changes in their attempt to square rugby league series

The watchword is resolution

By KEITH MACKLIN

FOR everyone with the Great Britain team's interests at heart, whether at the game at Old Trafford or watching on television, this afternoon promises to be one of almost unbearable tension.

It is 20 years since Great Britain won a rugby league series against Australia but at Manchester today, the team has a chance to erase some of the memories of humiliation and depression of those wilderness years, during which British rugby too often sank to its knees when faced with the men in green and gold.

Victory would complete a long haul back to international respect, which began with the remarkable and totally unexpected win at Sydney in 1988 when they faced another 3-0 whitewash. It continued with two series wins against New Zealand and achieved a staggering momentum with the euphoric victory at Wembley two weeks ago.

If Great Britain do manage to win today you can be sure the celebrations both on and off the field will be even more ecstatic and long-lasting than those which lit up Wembley a fortnight ago.

However, the British camp is only too aware that the Australians, smarting after that bitter defeat in the first match of the series, will come

out fighting as never before.

As Keith Barnes, their manager said: "Bobby Fulton, the coach, and I had no need to motivate the players for this one. They know that the series and their own professional pride and reputation are at stake. They want to go back to Australia with their heads held high."

Fulton's six changes from the team beaten 16-0 at Wembley will give the touring side greater pace and mobility. Stuart will be a more compact scrum half, and is unlikely to allow Gregory the licence he was given by Langer. The return of Daley, even with a bandaged hand, will bring extra smoothness to the backs, and be Lyons, who plays stand-off with Daley in the centre, can change positions if the situation warrants.

Up front, where the Australians were cut down to size by the determined British tacklers, Lazarus at prop and MacKay at loose forward will give both the pack and team effort greater impetus and running power. The trump card for Fulton could yet prove to be the choice of the tour vice-captain Benny Elias as hooker, in place of Kerrod Waller.

Elias is a cunning and skilful ball handler, full of crafty tricks and quick switches of play from the acting half-back

position. If he is allowed to weave too many patterns, Great Britain will suffer.

None of these factors will be overlooked by Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach. He and the captain, Ellery Hanley, have had no illusions about the certainty of a strong Australian response to the Lions' cavalry charge in the first international. The players were barely out of the bath at Wembley when Hanley told them that only a battle had been won, not the war.

The war can be won by four o'clock this afternoon, but only by another 90 minutes of unbroken concentration to complement Hanley's leadership, the half-back skills of Schofield and Gregory, and a deep kicking game to drive the Australians back into their own territory. Above all, the attacking must not be found wanting when the Australians, as they surely will, launch wave after wave of attacks.

Great Britain have made only one change in personnel. The Wigan forward, Andy Platt, having recovered from injury, is recalled to the front row with Paul Dixon moving into the second row and the unlucky Roy Powell being demoted to the substitutes bench.

Hopefully, the decision not to make the match all-in-their will not boomerang on the Rugby Football League and the Old Trafford authorities. The capacity has been fixed at 48,000 and it is to be hoped that everyone who wants to attend will be able to prove to be an historic match will be able to do so and not be faced by locked gates and closed turnstiles.

Rochdale in double signing

ROCHDALE Hornets yesterday signed Dennis Brown, 23, centre, and Stuart Gribble, 21, half, in a double signing from Truro Borough. Rochdale, the bottom club in the first division, have paid £50,000 for Abram, formerly a player with Warrington. The club paid an undisclosed fee for Galbraith, a New Zealander, who had five months of his contract to run.

However, Rochdale have failed to sign Mike Kutili, the New Zealand international forward, from Leeds.

Stuart Ettler
championship, page 31

TODAY'S TEAMS AT OLD TRAFFORD

GBRITAIN

S Hampson	1	Full Back	G Belcher	1
(Wigan)		(Cardiff)	A Etongahausen	5
P Eastwood	2	Right wing	A Etongahausen	5
(Hull)		(London)	"M" Menings	3
D Powell	3	Right centre	"M" Menings	3
(Sheffield Eagles)		(Cardiff)	L Daley	4
C Gibson	4	Left centre	L Daley	4
(Leeds)		(Cardiff)	D Shearer	5
M Orfiss	5	Left wing	D Shearer	5
(Widnes)		(London)	C Lyons	6
G Schofield	6	Stand off	C Lyons	6
(Leeds)		(Mony)	R Stuart	7
A Gregory	7	Scrum half	R Stuart	7
(Wigan)		(Cardiff)	S Roach	8
K Harrison	8	Prop	S Roach	8
(Hull)		(Bolton)	B Elias	9
L Jackson	9	Hooker	B Elias	9
(Hull)		(Bolton)	G Lazarus	10
A Platt	10	Prop	G Lazarus	10
(Wigan)		(Cardiff)	P Sironen	11
D Derts	11	Second row	P Sironen	11
(Wigan)		(London)	R Lindner	12
P Dibon	12	Second row	R Lindner	12
(Leeds)		(Western Suburbs)	B Mackay	13
*E Hanley	13	Loose forward	B Mackay	13
(Wigan)		(Bolton)	C Captain	

Referee: A Beale (Lancashire)

REPLACEMENTS: D Holmes (Widnes), P Laughton (St Helens), K Ward (St Helens), R Powell (Leeds).

REPLACEMENTS: D Alexander (Pancrat), D Hunter (Mony), J Claxton (Pancrat), R Bergin (Newcastle).



Reinforcement: Andy Platt, the Wigan forward, will strengthen the British team successful at Wembley

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

8.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Barclay's League

First division

Aston Villa v Nottingham Forest

Cheltenham v Norwich

C Palace v Arsenal

Derby Co v Manchester Utd

Liverpool v Luton

Sheff Utd v Everton

Southampton v QPR

Sunderland v Coventry

Tottenham v Wimbledon

Second division

Barnsley v Leicester

Blackburn v Sheffield Wed

Carlisle v York

Derbyshire v Hartlepool

Midkiss v Hereford

Peterborough v Doncaster

Scunthorpe v Rochdale

Stockport v Lincoln

Swindon v Barnet

Third division

Blackpool v Aldershot

Colchester v Stevenage

Grimsby Town v Hartlepool

Hartlepool v Shrewsbury

Huddersfield v Wrexham

Leeds United v Walsall

Morecambe v Accrington

Newport County v Cheltenham

Oldham v Notts County

Portsmouth v Oldham

Rotherham v Bradford

Shrewsbury v Wrexham

Stoke City v Walsall

Third division

Walsall v Bradford

Wrexham v Shrewsbury

Wolverhampton v Oldham

Yorks Co v Walsall

Yorks Utd v Walsall

Youghal v Wexford

RFU warns of possible dangers of using video evidence in disciplinary hearings after investigating incident at Twickenham

Probyn not guilty of provocation

By DAVID HARDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) yesterday spelled out the possible consequences of relying on video evidence in disciplinary cases. In clearing Jeff Probyn, the Wasps and England prop, of any blame in the incident which led to the dismissal of Federico Méndez, the Argentine prop, during the game against England at Twickenham last weekend, the union stated a twofold case against television.

The first, unspoken, element is that it may undermine the powers of the referee and his touch judges; the second is that the cameras may show part of an incident but not necessarily the whole, particularly

in a confrontation between opponents who have been, literally, eyeball-to-eyeball in scrums for much of the match.

Méndez was sent off by Colin Hawke, the New Zealand referee, for punching Paul Ackford, who played no other part in the affair.

Hawke's attention to that

incident was drawn by Ken McCartney, the Scottish touch judge, but the RFU was invited by the four home unions' disciplinary committee, which suspended Méndez for four weeks, to make its own investigation after allegations that Méndez, aged 18, was provoked.

The union said in a statement: "Video replays were studied, and Jeff Probyn was interviewed. The panel [two former referees, Denis Easby and Peter Brook, and Peter Johnson, a former front-row forward, all members of the RFU committee] was unanimously of the opinion that Jeff Probyn had not committed an offence which merited further action."

"The slow-motion pictures clearly showed that Probyn endeavoured to avoid the fallen Argentinian player by stepping over him. Probyn was then attacked twice by Méndez from his position on the ground and Méndez still had hold of his [Probyn's] groin at the moment when Probyn ran on him in an effort to make him release his grip. Méndez did not sub-

sequently require medical treatment.

"As has been demonstrated before, the RFU will not hesitate to take disciplinary action when the circumstances demand, but it must register its concern about the risk of the wrong conclusions being drawn from televised pictures."

Probyn, aged 34, who was winning his eighteenth cap, said yesterday: "I am very pleased. Since the TV showed that I had trodden on Méndez and the inquiry began it has naturally been a very anxious few days. I was not conscious of stamping on anybody. The attack and the pain it caused me occupied my full attention in the wheeling, driving

scrum. Obviously, when I saw on the television playback, I realised it did not look all that good, but it was not deliberate."

Hugo Porta, the Argentina stand-off half and captain in Edinburgh for tomorrow's international against Scotland at Murrayfield, said: "I don't make the laws and if an official inquiry finds that Probyn is not to be punished, then I must accept the decision."

Though there can be no excuse for Méndez's assault on Ackford, the young prop endured an uncomfortable afternoon against a most experienced opponent. He clearly lost his temper, but what might Probyn's position

have been, I wonder, had provocation been alleged and had there been no camera at the south end to capture the detail?

The RFU panel, too, will have been conscious of setting precedent in this matter. The union has as good a record as any in taking a disciplinary lead, but its members clearly have doubts about when such an incident can be termed to have "begun".

Watson comeback

The Commonwealth middle-weight boxing champion, Michael Watson, is set to return to the ring after a seven-month absence on the Nigel Benn-Cris Eubank undercard at the NEC, Birmingham, on November 18.

All Blacks ready to repel expected French backlash

From CHRIS THAU
IN PARIS

ALEX Wyllie, the New Zealand coach, is well aware of the uncanny French capacity to bounce back from the edge of despair and mount a formidable challenge. At the All Black practice yesterday he warned his players to expect a Paris afternoon of their French pride in the aftermath of their 12-12 defeat

last week.

"When stung they are very dangerous. Had we won the first international by a narrower margin, I guess the game could have been easier," Wyllie said. "However, there is more pressure to perform on the French than on the All Blacks. I expect the backlash of the kind the Australians have been faced with since their new look team last year and we had suffered in 1986."

Grant Fox, the stand-off half, who is probably the most influential player in the New Zealand playing pattern, supports Wyllie's assessment. "This is not an empty talk to motivate ourselves. We know how the French bounce back with a vengeance unless one maintains the pressure of tight control." Last year in Wellington, when we were leading 18-0, within about 30 minutes they came from behind to almost level the score at 18-17, Fox said.

The French have spent the last three days practising together twice a day to improve their cohesion. "We have 15 players from 10 different clubs in the team. Some of them never played together before so we have been trying to weld them into a side," Daniel Dubroca, the coach, said.

"For some of them like Jean-François Gourguine, who makes

"We did not have any good possession in Nantes. In fact, it was rather non-existent or awful. So it's very simple: we have to win possession to take the game to them," Dubroca said.

The inclusion of Pujolle and Dal Maso, in the front row, and of Gourguine, the powerful and mobile lock forward, is an attempt to strengthen the French front five platform.

Redman is denied an opportunity

By DAVID HARDS

WHILE Paul Ackford was not the happiest man at Twickenham last Saturday after being laid out by Federico Méndez, Nigel Redman was also annoyed by the blow struck by the Argentinian prop. Redman, the Bath lock, had been looking forward to a contest with Ackford in today's Courage Clubs Championship match, when Harlequins are the visitors to the Recreation Ground.

The clubs are contesting the leadership of the first division in a month of considerable significance for the competition. Were Bath to win today, and at Leicester next week in the first of two, given the third-round Pilkington Cup draw, he would come top of the table. They would have travelled a long way towards reclaiming the league title that was theirs in 1989.

Meanwhile, Redman, who returned to international rugby in Argentina during the summer in Ackford's absence, has been denied the chance to stake his claim for more caps against his rival because Ackford must take the mandatory three-week rest required of all victims of concussion.

Redman missed the start of the season because he was recuperating after operations to both his elbows and, when he returned, damaged his ribs.

Now, however, Redman is fit again and so is Sean O'Leary, who plays his first league game of the season for Wasps against Nottingham. England's selectors have long seen him as the natural successor to their other prime lockout exponent, Wade Dooley — certainly Dooley himself does — and his return to action will be watched keenly.

Andy Robinson, too, has the chance to nudge the selectors: the Bath flanker is directly opposed today to Peter Winterbottom, who holds down the open-side position in England's XV.

Next week, Robinson's opponents at Leicester should include Neil Back — assuming he has recovered from the head wound that keeps him out of his club's game with Liverpool St Helens.

All three national divisions will have touch judges specially appointed to today's league programme. The Rugby Football Union has recruited a panel of individuals, many of them with refereeing experience, to act specifically as touch judges but with the power to intervene over incidents of foul play.

They will be in action next weekend as well and, if the experiment is deemed successful, it will be continued for the remainder of the season.



Home debut: Weir will be up against Sporleder and Llanes at Murrayfield

History props Scots against Pumas

By DAVID HARDS

A SEVENTEEN years ago Hugo Porta and Luis Gradić combined at half back to all but bring down a Scottish XV which, however it was labelled, was the best Scotland could offer at the time. The 1973 Argentinians were leading 11-9 — Porta a try and a dropped goal — with only a few minutes to go when Colin Telfer dropped the ball that gave the Scots their 12-11 win.

Today, Porta, as captain, and Gradić, as coach, combine once more to see if a little extra gloss can be added to Argentina's tour record when they play Scotland in the Royal Bank international at Murrayfield. But if their roles remain pivotal to Argentine hopes, the Scots have moved a long way from that day when they could manage only three penalties to go with Telfer's goal; they take the field today as five nations' champions, holders of the grand slam and

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

Scotland	Argentina
G Hastings (Wales)	G P Anguita (La Plata)
A G Stanger (Hawick)	D Cusato Silva (SIC)
S Hastings (Wales)	L Arbizu (Braggano Athletic)
S R P Lineen (Broughshane)	S Mésón (Tucuman)
A Moore (Edinburgh Acad)	M Allen (CASH)
C M Chalmers (Macclesfield)	H Porta (Banco Nación)
G Armstrong (Aberdeen)	R H Cresceff (Society Club)
D M B Sole (Edinburgh Acad)	M Aguirre (Tucuman Univ)
T S Stansbie (Harrow's PP)	A Gómez (Braggano Athletic)
A P Turnbull (London Scottish)	D M Canif (SIC)
J Jeffrey (Keele)	F A Flanagan (Tucuman Univ)
C A Gray (Nottingham)	G Llanes (La Plata)
G W Wolf (Monrose)	P Sporleder (Currywurst)
G Buchanan-Smith (Harrow's PP)	E Escuola (Newman)
G R Marshall (Sekers)	M J S Bertramou (Los Toros)
	* Captain
Referee: F Burger (South Africa)	Replacements: 18 F W Dods (Glas.) 17 D S Wyllie (Stewart's Matilda FP), 18 G H Oliver (Hawick), 19 J Laing (Gal), 20 G Monte (Harrow's PP), 21 J Allen (Edinburgh Academ.)

REPLACEMENTS: 18 F W Dods (Glas.) 17 D S Wyllie (Stewart's Matilda FP), 18 G H Oliver (Hawick), 19 J Laing (Gal), 20 G Monte (Harrow's PP), 21 J Allen (Edinburgh Academ.)

REPLACEMENTS: 18 D Poet (Rosario Athletic), 17 R A Le Port (Tucuman), 18 R Etchegoyen (Banco Nación), 19 G Camarasa (Alumni), 20 G J Juge (Pucará), 21 A Scola (Alumni).

Leading teams to meet

A CLEARER picture at the top of both divisions of the All Ireland League should emerge after today's games (George Acs writes).

Four of the top five clubs in the first division are in opposition. With five points out of six, who are at home to Garyowen, who have won both their games?

Shannon, also with four points from two games, have a Thonford Park date with Instonians, who had their first loss last weekend. Lansdowne meet Constitution on the back pitch at Lansdowne Road.

Bangor and Young Munster, pacemakers in the second division, clash at Uprichard Park. Old Wesley, the other joint leaders, are away to Athlone.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bishop ready to play the generation game

By KEITH MACKLIN

WHATEVER happens at Old Trafford, the Stones' Bitter championship returns in full tomorrow, with Wigan taking the opportunity to put back their fixture against Hull Kingston Rovers at next Tuesday because of their heavy involvement in the international match.

At St Helens, Paul Bishop turns back the clock a generation. The half-back, signed after being released by neighbours Warrington, occupies the jersey worn with such distinction at Knowsley Road by his father, Tommy. St Helens have had a mixed season, but are likely to strike another blow against the first division survival of gallant Sheffield Eagles, who started the season well but have slipped badly recently.

The league leaders, Hull and Widnes, have no game tomorrow, which gives the opportunity for pursuing clubs to make up ground. Leeds stumbled badly at Widnes last week but should return to form at Headingley against Rochdale

back as they attempt to win their fourth match in succession.

If Pontypool fail in their mission and Bridgend lose at home to Pontypool, Llanelli could move up into second place, a situation which just belies the Wizards' claims beyond belief. But Swanscombe can also elevate themselves to second if they are victorious, and name eight full internationals in their line-up.

Bridgend dropped from second to fourth in after their defeat at the Gnoll last Saturday, but are level on 10 points with Pontypool and Swanscombe.

Pontypool should have no bother in taking their points tally to eight when they take on Gloucesterville at Arms Park. Newbridge, the big disappointment of the season, look for their second win of the season.

The positions below Neath in the table can change dramatically.

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These have been put firmly on one side while she attempts to dethrone the holder, Allison Fisher, aged 22, in the semi-finals of the Trusthouse Forte women's world championship, having recently relieved the champion of her British open title.

Karen Corr, the daughter of a retired Peterborough snooker player, will spend her 21st birthday today at London's Waldorf Hotel, not far from any coming of age celebrations (a Special Correspondent writes).

These have been put firmly on one side while she attempts to dethrone the holder, Allison Fisher, aged 22, in the semi-finals of the Trusthouse Forte women's world championship, having recently relieved the champion of her British open title.

SNOOKER

Unbeaten Hendry makes history

From STEVE ACTON IN DUBAI

STEPHEN Hendry wrote another chapter in the annals of snooker history yesterday when, by defeating Mike Hallett 5-0 to reach the semi-final in defence of the Dubai Classic title, he also surpassed Steve Davis's record of 27 successive match victories in ranking tournaments.

It was previously thought that Davis's record was 23, the mistake arising over the wrongful dating of a qualifying match two years ago, but that is now history. The same must not

continue to be said of Davis, the former world champion, who last night beat Terry Griffiths 5-2 after an arduous four-hour struggle to reach his final semi-final.

Hendry, the youngest world champion at 21, appears unbeatable at present. He came to Dubai fresh from successfully defending his Asian Open title in China, where he defeated Hallett 6-1, and he was equally severe on Hallett this time, completing successive breaks of

78, 32, 40, 35, 79 and 65. Hendry, who today plays Dick Reynolds, a 5-2 winner earlier in the day over Ross Williams, said: "I haven't any idea what I'm going to do next. I must admit it's nice to pinch a few records from him. It's a great feeling going to the table thinking you can be beaten."

After normal time last Saturday, Hendry awarded the tie to Reynolds because he had scored four tries to Hendry's back row. Both are injured and unable to play. Hendry's back row, which had scored four tries to Hendry's back row, was

awarded to Reynolds because he had scored four tries to Hendry's back row, which had scored four tries to Hendry's back row, was

BOWLS

A harder task lies ahead for Middlesex

MIddlesex, the holders of the Liberty Trophy, could face a stern test against Buckinghamshire today than they did against Oxfordshire in the opening match of their campaign (David Rhys Jones writes).

Kent, Lincolnshire, Somerset and Yorkshire, four former winners of the national county championship, will be struggling to keep their hopes alive. All lost their first games and cannot afford to slip up again.

Norfolk, who have won the event twice, face Cambridgeshire, whose win by 55 shots over Lincolnshire was the surprise of the first round.

MEETINGS ROUND ROBIN: teams draw 1: Cumbria v Northamptonshire; Durham v Gloucestershire; 2: Lancashire v Herefordshire; 3: Lancashire v Nottinghamshire; Group 3: Cambridgeshire v Norfolk; Lincolnshire v Northamptonshire; Group 4: Warwickshire v Shropshire; 4: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 5: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 6: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 7: Warwickshire v Shropshire; 8: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 9: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 10: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 11: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 12: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 13: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 14: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 15: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 16: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 17: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 18: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 19: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 20: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 21: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 22: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 23: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 24: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 25: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 26: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 27: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 28: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 29: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 30: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 31: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 32: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 33: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 34: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire; 35: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; 36: Gloucestershire v Herefordshire;

CRICKET

Younis gives West Indies an early taste of his quality

From QAMAR AHMED IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN, for whom fast bowler Waqar Younis again played a decisive role, had an exciting six-run victory in the first of the three one-day internationals against West Indies at the National Stadium here yesterday.

After being set 212 to win in this 40-over match, the touring team were restricted to 205 for seven as Younis, who finished with five for 52, swept through the middle order.

West Indies overcame the loss of Best in the first over, dismissed by Imran, with a second-wicket partnership between Haynes and Richardson which was worth 138 and put them well in sight of a comfortable win. But the picture changed dramatically after Younis had broken that stand in a fiery second spell.

His first burst of three overs cost him 21 runs. But when he returned, when Haynes and Richardson were threatening to win the game, Younis created havoc.

In successive deliveries in his first over he had Richardson caught in the deep by the substitute, Ijaz, for 69, then bowled Logic from 139 for one in the thirtieth over, West

Indies slumped to 149 for four as Younis changed the course of the game. Haynes had his stumps uprooted by a vicious yorker after making 67 in 92 balls, with 11 fours, and Younis struck again when Brian Lara, the newcomer from Trinidad, aged 21, was forced on to the back foot and trapped leg-before to make the score 158 for five in the 35th over.

Dujon was dismissed by the leg spinner, Mushtaq, and Hooper became a fifth victim for Younis as Pakistan held on against a late onslaught from Marshall.

When Pakistan batted, after they had won the toss, they made a shaky start and lost four wickets for 91 runs in 22 overs. But then Imran, playing his first serious game for nine months, and Salim Malik put on 75 runs in 55 minutes to stabilise the innings.

Imran, who took over the leadership when Javed Miandad voluntarily surrendered the captaincy on the eve of the match, batted as he had never been out of the game. His undisciplined 53 contained five fours and a six off Hooper.

Salim Malik, who hit seven

fours, scored 58 from 65 balls.

The acceleration was maintained by a brisk innings by the wicketkeeper, Saleem Yousuf, who helped Imran in a partnership which brought in the last six overs.

PAKISTAN

Aamer Riaz c & b Ambrose 22

Aamer Riaz c & b Hooper 22

Javed Miandad lbw v Bishop 5

Saleem Yousuf c & b Bishop 27

Saleem Yousuf not out 27

(Extras 6, w. 4, nb. 4) 18

Total (5 wkt., 40 overs) 212

Total (7 wkt., 40 overs) 205

I. Bishop and C. A. Watch not out

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-35, 3-38, 4-41, 5-168

BOWLING: Bishop 8-14-2; Ambrose 8-14-2; Hooper 8-0-30-3; Salim 8-0-51-1

WAQAR YOUNIS 5-1-45-5; Mushtaq 8-0-51-1; Salim 8-0-52-5; Mushtaq Ahmed 8-0-51-1; Salim Malik 1-0-0-0

Man of the match: Saleem Yousuf

● Martin Thursfield, the Middlesex fast bowler, has joined Hampshire.

GOLF

Johnson throws away her lead

From A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ST RAPHAEL, FRANCE

TRISH Johnson, of Britain, made a significant move when, on another day of high scoring, a third round of 71 carried her into a share of the halfway lead in the Longines Classic, a strong position to claim the Woolmark Order of Merit title.

She drew level with Federica Dassù, the overnight leader from Italy, and with their one-over aggregate of 143 they led by two strokes from the professional host club, who was playing in her first professional tournament.

"I dreamed of getting involved in racing and being a jockey but when I got to be 1.86 metres tall [6ft 1in] and 87 kilos [13 stone] I was through the limit."

Instead he took to the ski slopes like a duck to water from the age of five, he found himself drawn to the jumping world after watching the Grand National televised in Switzerland.

"At the turn that Johnson had drawn level with Dassù, she took the lead with a birdie from 25 feet at the 10th only to take three putts on the next green. Two more putts followed on the 14th and 15th holes. John squandered his advantage over the closing holes."

At the 16th, Johnson drove into the trees then dropped another stroke at the 18th, where she overhit the green with

one of the 31 three-ball

horses were able to avoid a seven or worse on their cards and the unluckiest victim was Sabine Lauriot Prevost, a teaching professional at the host club, who was playing in her first professional tournament.

Only two of the 31 three-ball

horses were able to avoid a seven or worse on their cards and the unluckiest victim was Sabine Lauriot Prevost, a teaching professional at the host club, who was playing in her first professional tournament.

LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING THIRD ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING FOURTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING FIFTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING SIXTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING SEVENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING EIGHTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING NINTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING TENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING ELEVENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING TWELFTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING THIRTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING FOURTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING FIFTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING SIXTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING SEVENTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING EIGHTEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING NINETEENTH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

LEADING TWENTIETH ROUND SCORES (GB and its overseas stars): 142: F. Dassù (It), 67, 71; T. Johnson (GB), 72, 71, 142; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; A. Lopez & Wester Younis 68; R. B. Richardson c & b Waqar Younis 68; C. Hooper lbw v Waqar Younis 70; 1P J. Dujon c & b Salim Yousf 70; M. D. Marshall not out 70; C. E. L. Ambrose not out 71

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Executive Editor David Brewerton

BUSINESS

Unilever hit by profit cutback in US

By GRAHAM SEARJANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food, detergent and toiletries group, disappointed the stock markets with an 8 per cent rise in third-quarter pre-tax profits, increased to £488 million.

This was despite an earlier warning from Sir Michael Angus, the chairman, that the second half of the year might be difficult. The shares initially dropped 25p to 535p.

But they recovered to 513p, down 9p, after it emerged that the results unexpectedly included some £30 million of exceptional costs to restructure Lipton, the group's American tea operation.

Together with tough competition in North America and heavy promotional spending in the detergent market there, that pushed American operating profits for the three months to end September down from £116 million to £74 million, on 7 per cent higher turnover. Sir Michael said the American results were disappointing. In most of the group's other markets round the world profits and margins improved. European profits were particularly buoyant, partly due to ice cream sales on the continent, rising 27 per cent to £375 million.

Within Europe, the German market was singled out as a success.

Sir Michael said the results were also helped by the sale of the group's oilseed milling operations in Britain and Germany.

Outside North America and Europe, the group made broadly based progress but in Japan the market still remained difficult and competitive.

The third-quarter dividend is up 7.8 per cent to 4.86p per share, from earnings up 12 per cent to 15.6p.

For the nine months, pre-tax profits rose 6 per cent to £1.33 billion from turnover up 12 per cent to £16.6 billion. Earnings per share were 16 per cent higher at 44.53p.

Brokers' profit forecasts for the full year were cut at the interim stage, after Sir Michael said he was cautious about the second half. County NatWest has again reduced its 1990 pre-tax forecast from £1.85 billion to £1.8 billion.

THE ROUND

US dollar 1.9670 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.8271 (+0.0033)
Exchange index 94.4 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1582.6 (+7.7)
FT-SE 100 2040.6 (+4.4)
New York Dow Jones 2470.30 (+26.49)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22931.80 (-38.01)
Closing Prices ... Page 39
Major indices and major changes Page 38

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month eurobills 13%
3-month eurobills 13%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.05-7.04%
30-year bonds 100%
ECU 101.701345 SDR 93.734651
ECU 142.831 ESDR 1.362021

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
E. \$1.9670*
E. DM 2.8271*
E. SwF 2.4388*
E. FF 1.4258*
E. Yen 125.70*
E. Swiss Fr 1.2520*
ECU 101.701345 SDR 93.734651
ECU 142.831 ESDR 1.362021

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 5384.65 pm 5385.70
Close 5384.55-5385.25 (£155.75-
156.25)
New York: Comex 5383.50-5384.00*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$34.35/bbl (\$34.70)*
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia \$	2.60	2.65
Austria Sch	21.50	20.20
Belgium Fr	63.00	62.00
Canada \$	1.00	2.25
Denmark Kr	11.70	11.00
Finland Mark	1.37	1.25
France Fr	15.00	14.00
Germany Dm	3.055	2.95
Ireland Dr	316.00	298.00
Hong Kong \$	15.60	15.00
Iraq Dinar	2.00	1.75
Italy Lira	260.00	250.00
Japan Yen	3.435	3.225
Netherlands Gld	1.00	1.00
Portugal Esc	260.25	250.25
South Africa Rand	5.00	4.50
Spain Pta	191.00	175.00
Sweden Kr	10.00	10.00
Switzerland Fr	2.555	2.405
Turkey Lira	57.00	52.00
USA \$	2.045	1.95
Yugoslavia Dr	27.00	20.00

Rates for small denominations bank only. * denotes latest trading price. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 102.3 (September)

Uncertainty over Polly Peck hurts northern Cyprus

From ANGELA MACKAY
IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

THE council of ministers of northern Cyprus held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss a growing regional cash problem exacerbated by the uncertainty surrounding the future ownership of Polly Peck International's assets there.

Richard Stone, one of PPI's administrators, two colleagues spent the day with Ilker Nevzat, chief executive of PPI in Cyprus. Interests include the Sunzett fruit packing and processing plant, four hotels trading under the Voyager flag, Pearl Construction, A N Graphics and Cyprus Industrial Bank. Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's

Turkish Cypriot chairman, had been expected to accompany Mr Stone, but stayed in London to prepare a defence in a bankruptcy action.

The council meeting, chaired by Mr Rauf Denktash, the region's president, was called after much of northern Cyprus had no electricity for seven hours on Thursday because the electricity board could not afford diesel oil for the power plant. The plants provide a back-up to the power sold to the north by the Greek Cypriots in authority in the south.

Mr Stone planned to submit a preliminary report within the week valuing PPI assets but the government in northern

Cyprus has frustrated attempts to examine bank accounts and other documentation. He will try to meet ministers this weekend and petition for a lifting of the injunction that is prohibiting local subsidiaries from revealing information to him.

Mr Denktash has provided moral support for Mr Nadir, but his government cannot provide financial support.

Mr Nadir is planning to fly to northern Cyprus next week to help Mr Stone's investigation, despite moves by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Shearson Lehman Brothers to declare him bankrupt. A petition by Lehman and BZW will be heard in the bankruptcy registry on

Tuesday. They are suing Mr Nadir for £22.1 million.

The trade department is keeping alive its option of mounting an investigation into Polly Peck after meeting the company's administrators yesterday. Michael Jordan, PPI's administrator from Coopers & Lybrand Deofonte, met DTI officials to report on the progress of his investigation.

A Coopers spokesman described the meetings as "easy-going", while the DTI said it was a routine meeting and it would keep in touch with the administrators while they prepare their report on the company.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said when PPI was placed in administration

that he would request a full report from Coopers at the earliest opportunity. But Coopers' enquiries are still at an early stage and the DTI wants clearer details before deciding to investigate.

The Serious Fraud Office is anxious to meet Jason Davies, the former broker at the centre of the Polly Peck affair, at his home in Gloucester, according to his lawyer in London, Rodney Hylton-Potter.

The British police need the formal agreement of the Swiss authorities before they can visit Mr Davies, who runs Nadir Investments, the Swiss company that administers the personal finances of the Nadir family.

DES JENSON

Pöhl calls for two-speed move to Emu

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

KARL OTTO PÖHL, the president of the German Bundesbank, called yesterday for an inner core of European countries to move quickly towards a fuller monetary union. He also offered a sharp, and sometimes sarcastic, critique of Britain's proposal for a new European currency, the "hard ecu".

Such a move to fully fixed exchange rates between Germany, France, the Benelux countries and possibly Denmark and Ireland was "the most likely and the most realistic scenario" for progress towards the ultimate goal of economic and monetary union (Emu) among all the countries of Europe, Herr Pöhl added later in a discussion at the LSE on his prepared statement.

He argued that other countries, including Britain, Italy and Spain, should not stand in the way of this approach to Emu, since they would be able to join in later as their domestic economic conditions improved. "Why should we not have a group of countries which have reached a high degree of convergence start the exercise? The door

would be left open for other countries to join later."

Herr Pöhl also delivered an acerbic critique of Britain's proposal for a market-based approach to Emu through the creation of a "hard ecu". This would be a non-inflationary currency that a European central bank would circulate alongside existing national currencies.

He insisted this "parallel currency strategy offers no advantages" in terms of institutional arrangements, since it does not guarantee the independence of the European central bank. But it has the crucial disadvantage of leaving responsibility for monetary policy unclear between the national and European central banks. Responsibility for monetary policy had to be "indivisible" and vested in one politically independent central bank. Because the hard ecu approach would divide this responsibility, it could be "the worst possible recipe for monetary policy".

Kenneth Fleet, page 37



Financial exchanges: Karl Otto Pöhl and John Major, the Chancellor, meeting at 11 Downing Street yesterday.

Company failures at their second highest

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Lilley: no easy cure

are up 57 per cent to 2,316.

Mr Lilley, speaking at the chambers' annual lunch in London, said inflation had to be reduced, and that curing it would not be painless or easy. He said: "The underlying strength of the economy after a decade of rising productivity and profitability means that there is no reason to expect a repeat of the recession of the early Eighties."

The statistics, from the trade department, show company insolvencies to be the second-highest ever. The total for individual insolvencies is a record.

The figures, published through the British Chambers of Commerce, show that the provisional, seasonally adjusted total of company insolvencies for the third quarter of this year was 4,018, an increase of 22.7 per cent from the 3,273 recorded for the previous three months.

The year-on-year rise from last year's third quarter stands at 62 per cent.

The particularly sharp rise in the latest quarter, is in line with recent surveys from the chamber and the CBI. They show business confidence at its lowest level for a decade.

Compulsory liquidations have risen 80 per cent over the year to an unadjusted figure of 985 for July to September, while voluntary liquidations

are up 57 per cent to 2,316.

Mr Lilley, speaking at the chambers' annual lunch in London, said inflation had to be reduced, and that curing it would not be painless or easy. He said: "The underlying strength of the economy after a decade of rising productivity and profitability means that there is no reason to expect a repeat of the recession of the early Eighties."

Further gloom is expected next week when the CBI publishes the regional breakdown of its survey on industrial trends.

• European pessimism over the outlook for business is concentrated primarily in the UK, according to a Dun & Bradstreet survey. Dr Joseph Duncan, Dun & Bradstreet's chief economist, said: "The low level of optimism in the UK clearly indicates that a recession is in place."

Miles Middleton, BBC presenter, said: "The steep rise in insolvencies confirms that businesses are going through a very difficult period and will need as much support as can be provided."

Last night, Michael Spicer,

the housing minister, speaking to construction employers in Broadway, Gloucestershire, said there were some encouraging signs ahead for the building industry.

Mr Spicer added that recent gloomy surveys about construction prospects had been taken before the recent cut in interest rates.

However, according to the latest survey from the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, few engineering contractors expected any increase in work or employment over the next 12 months.

Fifty-two per cent of companies are reporting worse order books than 12 months ago.

Forty-eight per cent are expecting to employ fewer workers than a year ago.

Profits are also being squeezed

and 79 per cent of companies report lower margins than a year ago.

Further gloom is expected

next week when the CBI

publishes the regional

breakdown of its survey on

industrial trends.

• The new proposal satisfies

the department's objections to

the combination on competitive grounds.

• Canada Packers, Hills-

down's 56 per cent owned

Canadian offshore, is to re-

organise its processed food

division, cutting 160 jobs,

many at divisional head-

office.

Hillsdown puts offer to Lilley

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HILLSDOWN Holdings has put a last minute compromise offer to Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to try to save its rescue deal for Strong & Fisher, the ailing leather group, without a monopolies commission enquiry.

Mr Lilley said earlier that he would refer the deal, which would give Hillsdown a majority stake in S&F, unless Hillsdown agreed to sell S&F's 27 per cent stake in Pittard Gammar, the other main quoted leather group.

Pittard's shares are at a low ebb because of the parlous state of the market for skins and this exacerbated S&F's problems.

Hillsdown, which is keen to rationalise the industry, does not want to sell the stake at this low point and has hinted that it might walk away from the S&F deal if it were referred, precipitating a likely collapse of S&F.

Talks were being held between Hillsdown and trade department officials to see if the new proposal satisfies the department's objections to the combination on competitive grounds.

• Canada Packers, Hills- down's 56 per cent owned Canadian offshore, is to re- organise its processed food division, cutting 160 jobs, many at divisional head office.

Oxford's trading profit sharply up

By PHILIP PANGALOS
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

OXFORD Instruments Group unveiled pre-tax profits of £6.05 million in the six months to end-September, against £9.37 million last year. However, last year's figures included an exceptional property disposal gain of £25.36 million, suggesting a real advance in profits of 31 per cent, which was above market expectations.

Organic growth helped the group's turnover advance 29 per cent to £49.3 million, with between 80 and 90 per cent of revenue overseas. America is the biggest market, accounting for a third of sales, followed by Europe and Japan.

Operating profits rose 28 per cent to £23.75 million, interest receipts fell from £1.4 million to £292,000, largely due to the acquisition of Link for £47.5 million.

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*Source: Government Actuaries Department.

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BUILDING SOCIETY

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Banks divided on splitting interest in joint accounts

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

MILLIONS of couples will have to decide over the next five months whether to continue with their joint bank accounts after composite rate tax (CRT) is scrapped next April. The choice will be forced on couples where one is a taxpayer and the other is not.

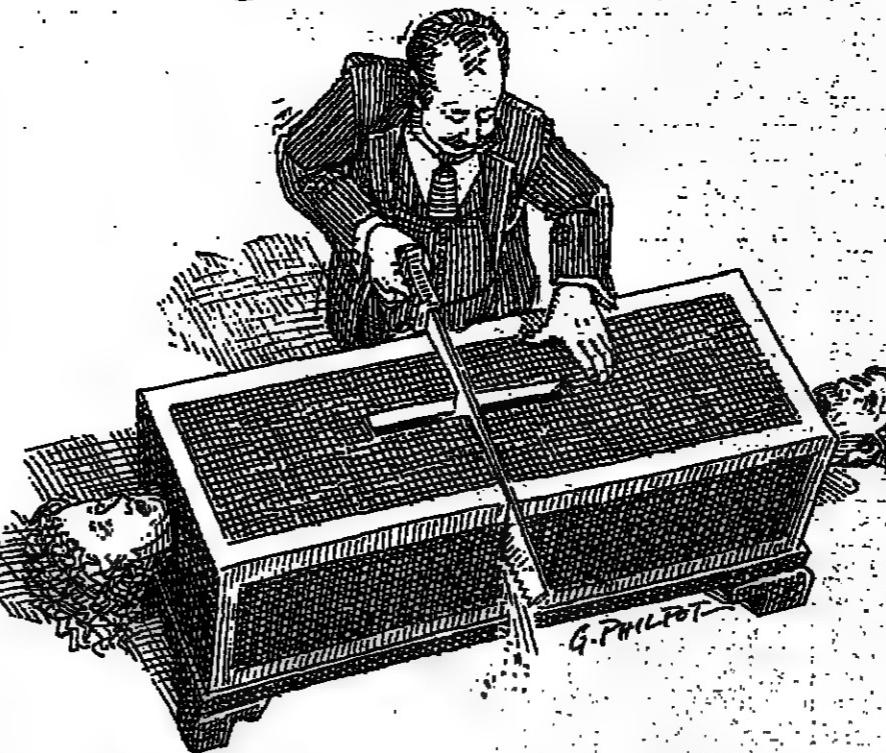
Regulations laid before Parliament by the Inland Revenue yesterday permit banks and building societies to split the interest on joint accounts so that half the money can be paid without tax deducted and the rest paid net of basic rate tax. But the big four banks have decided that they will not offer this facility. Most building societies will, however, split the interest.

The Inland Revenue would like all banks to offer split interest accounts. "The facility will make it easier and simpler for savers," it said.

Non-taxpayers who share joint accounts with taxpayers will be able to claim back the tax deducted by the banks from the Inland Revenue, but not until after April 6, 1992. This could be more than £750 in some cases. The Inland Revenue cannot say how long it will take to process applications for refunds received in 1992. This will depend on how many of the 15 million non-taxpayers fill in application forms, available from banks and building societies next month, and how many receive interest payments gross.

Those non-taxpayers who have accounts in their name alone, or with a bank or building society that will split the interest, will have access to the extra money straightforward.

The main reason for the banks not allowing interest to be split, according to the



British Bankers' Association, is that their computers are too old to make the change easily.

The banks are also concerned at the cost of scrapping CRT, which they already put at millions of pounds.

The Midland Bank said: "There is

also genuine concern on the legal question of constructive trusts. By agreeing to pay half the interest to one party with tax deducted and the other half without deduction they are put on notice that there is a constructive trust." This could cause difficulties if account holders disputed ownership of the money in the account. By paying the interest in two portions, the banks fear they would have accepted equal ownership.

Lloyds Bank estimates it has 900,000 joint accounts

where one partner is a non-taxpayer.

Barclays said: "We are currently reviewing the situation. We have no plans to introduce split interest at present."

National Westminster Bank said it was a complex issue with legal and practical considerations. The bank has two million joint savings accounts and estimates that 30 per cent will have one party who is not a taxpayer.

The Abbey National and TSB are the largest banks to split interest on joint accounts. Andrew Buley at TSB said it was possible because the bank had very sophisticated on-line real-time computers.

Most building societies are also planning to split the interest. Mike Whitehouse,

NatWest
teaches
facts
of life

STAFF at National Westminster Bank have been given lessons in the modern financial facts of life by the bank's insurance division. It realised that more couples are living together and therefore need different investment advice from married couples. (Lindsay Cook writes).

Steve Wells, deputy managing director of NatWest Insurance Services (NWIS), said: "We realised we were getting an increasing number of enquiries from people living together. We therefore drew up some notes, which have been issued to staff."

He added that the bank, the largest independent financial adviser, included in its training what different groups of customers will require.

Some of the unmarried couples may never have married, while others have been married to other partners in the past and may not have been divorced. All their needs are different and care has to be taken.

For example, unmarried couples taking out a mortgage are advised to take out a mortgage protection policy giving the proceeds to the survivor, says the bank.

• NWIS has been inspected by Dr Oonagh McDonald, the former MP who produced a report on the competence of investment salesmen for the Securities and Investments Board this year, after an invitation from the bank.

This audit proved to be very beneficial and while she expressed herself as very satisfied with the way in which we currently operate, she made some useful recommendations for the future," said Mr Wells.

BRIEFINGS

□ The Halifax has raised its first-time buyer discount from 0.7 per cent to 1.25 per cent, giving a mortgage rate of 13.25 per cent.

□ Borrowers can lock into lower payments with a 12.35 per cent fixed-rate mortgage guaranteed for five years from Confederation Life.

□ Standard Life is offering 27 one-day and three weekend pre-retirement courses aimed mainly at employees within two years of retirement. A one-day course costs £70 or £120 for a couple.

□ Nationwide Anglia has introduced a mortgage protection plan to safeguard borrow-

ers' entire monthly payment in the event of accident, illness or redundancy — provided the home loan rate does not rise above 17 per cent. Some similar schemes only guarantee part of the sum.

□ General Portfolio's maximum income account series II rates have been cut by 1 per cent. A three-year account will earn 11.75 and a two-year account 11.5 per cent. Northern Rock has also cut rates by between 0.2 and 0.55 per cent.

□ NEC has introduced a corporate personal equity plan (Pep) for both its employees and other investors, who can buy £6,000 of its shares a year.

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LETTERS

Societies adapt to change

From the director-general of The Building Societies Association

Sir, Peter Rein (Letters, November 3) suggests that it would be alarming to relax controls on building societies, and that this would be to the detriment of the small investor and the owner-occupier. He cites the "Savings and Loans" debacle in the USA and says that the mind boggles at the thought of what would have happened if there had been deregulation of building societies at the start of the last boom. He suggests that many people would have lost their life savings and at least 20 to 30 per cent of societies would have gone to the wall.

This is nonsense. The experience of the past few years has been that building societies have diversified both modestly and cautiously, and as a result they can boast profitability that compares very favourably with that of banks. The American thrift crisis was not caused by deregulation, but rather by an inadequate supervisory mechanism.

Mr Rein suggests that we are justifying new legislation for building societies on the grounds that the Abbey National has converted and the Alliance and Leicester has purchased a bank. This is not correct. These points are merely made as an indication

of the continued blurring of the distinction between banks and building societies. As societies and banks increasingly compete so it is more necessary to ensure a consistent regulatory framework.

As Mr Rein suggests, building societies are concerned that they do not have as much flexibility as they need to tap the wholesale markets in the event of the retail markets proving insufficient for their needs. He states with great authority that there is not going to be a bull market in equities and therefore that societies have no need to worry. Sadly, I do not think this reassurance will satisfy shareholders.

Mr Rein rightly says that building societies are among the most important national assets in the United Kingdom. They have achieved this status by constantly adapting to changing market conditions.

The 1986 Building Societies Act helped them greatly in this respect and now is not too soon to begin thinking about new legislation which must take account of the market which will exist in the mid-1990s.

Yours faithfully,
MARK BOLEAT,
Director-general,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1.

HONEST ERNIE



Ernie's nature

From the director of National Savings

Sir, Mr Gee and Mr Wallis (Letters, November 3) make some good points on Ernie and random numbers.

Mr Gee reminds us that we now have standard odds and sometimes "random" as haphazard and irregular. Mr Wallis argues that the same number could be chosen at random in the same draw, but seems to think that we are making checks to stop this happening.

I can assure Mr Wallis that the same numbers do indeed come up in the same draw —

perhaps 20 times a month. We do of course check Ernie's numbers. We are only allowed to give a winning number one prize in a draw. So if the number comes up twice it gets the higher prize, and the lower prize goes to another winning number.

In National Savings we would be worried if the same number never came up twice — Mr Wallis is quite right on this. The Government Actuary is not checking on the basis that the same number would only come up once.

I have been doing independent research into Ernie for the past three years. I travel all over the UK with my job, and I have spoken to hundreds, and I mean hundreds, of people who have anywhere between £10 to £10,000 invested with Ernie. I have yet to meet anyone who has received more than a £1,000 prize. I would truly and sincerely love to hear from any of *The Times*' readers, or indeed any of the 28,000 people who hold £10,000 worth of bonds, and the 400,000 who hold £1,000 or more.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN A. PATTERSON,
Director of Savings,
Department of National
Savings,
Charles House,
375 Kensington High Street,
W14.

From Mr Austin G. Fenney
Sir, I found your article on Ernie (October 20) most interesting. Until recently I held the maximum holding of £10,000 worth of bonds. I

have never won more than a £100, with a number of £50 prizes. At the present moment I hold £7,000 worth of bonds which I soon plan to cash in as I am convinced, like your reader John Duncan, that something is amiss.

I have been doing independent research into Ernie for the past three years. I travel all over the UK with my job, and I have spoken to hundreds, and I mean hundreds, of people who have anywhere between £10 to £10,000 invested with Ernie. I have yet to meet anyone who has received more than a £1,000 prize. I would truly and sincerely love to hear from any of *The Times*' readers, or indeed any of the 28,000 people who hold £10,000 worth of bonds, and the 400,000 who hold £1,000 or more.

Yours sincerely,
AUSTIN G. FENEY,
39 Filby Road,
Swaffham, Norfolk.

● Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Wrong connection

From Mr John Crompton

Sir, Any hopes I may have had that the electricity privatisation would lead to a better response to customers have been dashed even before it has taken off.

I used a coupon in a newspaper advert to register with the Share Information Office — having found it difficult to get through on the telephone. The coupon requested only one's full name and address. I have now

received confirmation from the Share Information Office in Bristol that I am registered — but for shares in the wrong company.

The explanatory leaflet explains the necessity to be registered with the company board for which one is a customer in order to receive the customer incentive benefits. It also states that they have registered people in accordance with their address.

I have now had to write to Bristol — contact by telephone still impossible — to advise

them of the correct details. My point is that it would surely have been better to request people to state which board they were a customer of in the newspaper coupon as everybody would surely know the answer. It looks as if the methods used by the Share Information Office to assess this information are no more accurate than those used by the old electricity boards to produce estimated bills!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CROMPTON,
14d Donovan Avenue, N10.

Plea for fair tax on loan perk

EMPLOYEES who receive loans from their employers at preferential rates of interest are fighting for a fairer deal on the taxation of this perk (Sarah McConnell writes).

Those with cheap mortgages, in particular, say they are paying too much tax. This is because the Inland Revenue is using an official rate of interest that is higher than the standard rate of interest charged by the main lenders.

Tax bills are worked out by deducting the rate paid from the official rate of interest and charging tax on the difference.



Pocock: seeking change

The official rate is 15.5 per cent, which is 1 per cent higher than most mortgages. Until this week the official rate was 16.5 per cent.

The problem mostly affects employees of banks, building societies and other financial institutions. Employers will normally lend employees between £40,000 and £50,000 at a rate of about 5 per cent interest on any portion of a mortgage above that is usually charged at the customer rate.

The British Bankers' Association estimated that about £13 million in tax was lost last year by more than 100,000 bank, building society and insurance company employees.

WHEN SHOULD A WOMAN TAKE OUT A PENSION?

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Often the best time to buy is when the outlook is at its gloomiest. Indeed, the greater risk now could be to be out of markets altogether — to be caught out when the bear finally turns to a bull. Furthermore, following recent price falls, selected UK stocks present excellent value and a real buying opportunity for long-term investors.

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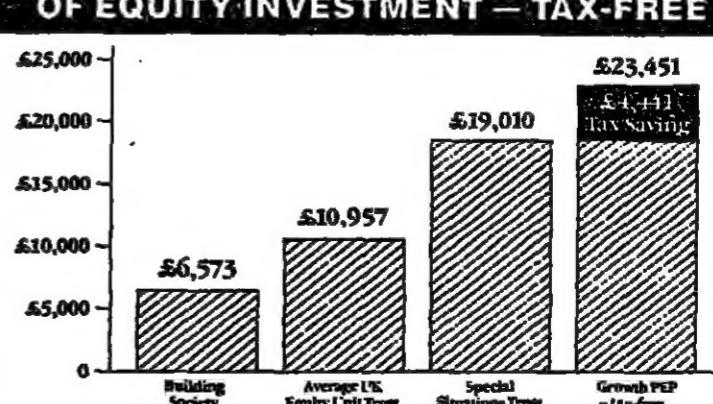
- Professional management by experienced investment specialists.
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Fidelity — Your first choice for PEPs.

Now, more than ever, you need fund managers who have the expertise to pick out companies which offer real long-term growth potential, regardless of the short-term economic and political difficulties. It is exactly this stockpicking skill that has earned Fidelity Special Situations Trust its unrivalled long-term growth record (first in its sector over 10 years, second over 5*) and the title of "Unit Trust of the Decade"** for the '80s.

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*Net of capital gains tax and basic rate income tax. Return from Fidelity Special Situations Trust +34.6% from 1.10.80 to 1.10.90.

Adapted from Micropal, all figures offer to bid.

experience and proven performance strength of the world's largest independent fund manager with the tax saving advantages of a PEP. And ensure that you are ideally placed to benefit fully from the upturn in the UK market when it comes.

Ask your Independent Financial Adviser for details of Fidelity's complete range of PEPs and, at the same time, get a free copy of our leaflet 'The Case for Equity Investment'. Alternatively, call us anytime from 9am to 9pm, 7 days a week on Callfree 0800 414191, or return the coupon below.



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Please send me details of Fidelity's range of PEP Portfolios and my free copy of 'The Case for Equity Investment'.

Full Name Mr/Mrs/Miss (block letters please)
Address _____
Tel No. _____
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(so that we can call you to answer any questions you may have)

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The price of units and shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. The value of any tax relief depends on individual circumstances. Please note that tax legislation may change. Gartmore Investment Limited. A member of IMCI.

* Source: Micropal. Figures to 1.10.90, offer to bid.
** Source: Micropal 1.1.80 to 1.1.90, offer to bid with net income reinvested.
Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments within a PEP and the income from them may go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount invested. The tax advantages of a PEP are currently available and may be subject to future statutory changes. The value of tax savings will depend upon an investor's individual circumstances.

Issued by Gartmore Investment Limited, a member of IMCI.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 39).

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
1 +4	+4	+5	+7	+5			
2 +7	+5	+7	+2	+3			
3 +3	+3	+2	+2	+1			
4 +2	+3	+3	+5	+5			
5 +5	+4	+4	+1	+2			
6 +7	+5	+8	+2	+5			
7 +5	+5	+5	+5	+2			
8 +3	+3	+3	+8	+6			
9 +4	+4	+3	+2	+3			
10 +3	+3	+4	+2	+1			
11 +4	+4	+6	+3	+8			
12 +3	+3	+3	+3	+3			
13 +4	+4	+5	+2	+2			
14 +8	+6	+8	+1	+4			
15 +2	+5	+5	+5	+5			
16 +3	+4	+3	+2	+1			
17 +4	+4	+4	+4	+4			
18 +5	+5	+					

Once again the investors come last in the considerations of an insurance company. Holders of Sun Life's US bonds fund will be sent letters on Monday telling them that the life company has decided to close the fund on December 14.

The policyholders have not been consulted on the decision and are being given just five weeks' notice until the closure. If they do not respond to the letters their investment will be automatically transferred to Sun Life's fixed-interest fund. With a total of £1 million invested, the fund is small and its performance in a sickly sector has been poor. It has given an average growth of 4 per cent a year over the past five.

But now, at the bottom of a bombed-out US bond market, is not the time to force investors to bail out. David Kauders, an independent financial adviser who has more than 50 clients in the fund, is hopeful that the American bond market is about to rise as American interest rates fall.

Investors have been attracted by his arguments that sterling is too high and that there are gains to be made from such a fund as

the pound falls. Now they find themselves dumped unceremoniously in a fixed-interest fund with none of the growth potential.

Those investors who find the offer unacceptable and decide to transfer their investment to other companies still offering US bond funds will find themselves out of pocket. They may also incur a capital gains tax bill. Others could face surrender penalties on their policies.

Since the crash of 1987 investment groups have been telling investors that they must keep faith and not withdraw from the market. Here is a group of investors who have made a conscious decision to go into a specific fund and who will not be able to sit it out and wait for an upturn on their investment. They can rightly feel robbed.

Sun Life says it has 34 funds and, during a review, decided there were a couple of funds that did not warrant keeping because of their size. Mr Kauders argues



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

that the fund in question did not take much managing as it was primarily invested in medium- and long-term bonds.

The cost in disillusioned investors could well outweigh any savings the insurance group makes. They and their brokers may think twice before putting money with an insurance company that treats them in such a cavalier way.

Split interests

Joint bank accounts are likely to lose a lot of their attraction for millions of couples next year. The big four

banks have decided not to pay interest gross to non-taxpayers who have joint accounts with taxpayers when composite rate tax is scrapped in April.

The explanations for their reluctance to offer this basic service is that it will cost a lot, and that their computers are not up to it. They also maintain that paying the interest in equal halves may cause legal difficulties later on.

Building societies, however, are just getting on with it. So are TSB and Abbey National, whose roots probably bring them closer to their customers than two single accounts would provide.

There are 15 million non-

non-working wife or widow is not stranded without money.

It seems a little disingenuous for banks, who have been telling customers since the introduction of independent taxation in April that interest earned on joint accounts is regarded as belonging to couples on a 50/50 basis, to hide behind trust law to stop them actually paying the interest in two lots.

The decision affects both interest-bearing current accounts and savings accounts, with as many as one in three joint accounts having a non-taxpayer. Where current accounts are concerned the amounts of interest will be mostly trivial. On average each party might expect to earn £15 a year in interest. The tax involved is probably too small to bother claiming back. With savings accounts there is a real loss in having to wait a year without access to the money deducted.

The delay will give couples ample time to decide whether they want to transfer accounts to an institution that will only deduct as much tax as is necessary and not more.

A CHANGE in the way life assurance companies disclose their profits could encourage with-profits companies to furnish shareholders with funds that until now have been considered as policyholders'.

The funds at stake run into billions of pounds and are referred to as a life company's "estate". They are funds not needed to maintain existing policyholders' bonuses and have arisen because previous generations of policyholders did not receive all the bonuses they should have.

Although the question of ownership has never been formally settled, proprietary companies — companies with shareholders — have traditionally taken the view that about 90 per cent of the estate belongs to policyholders and 10 per cent to shareholders. Investment profits are then distributed proportionately.

But in a recent report by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, it is suggested that life companies are moving towards attributing a higher proportion of their estates to shareholders. Indeed, arguments can be advanced that the whole estate belongs to them, it says.

The principle supporter of the move is London and Manchester Assurance, which last month confirmed that it was moving towards placing 100 per cent of its estimated £187 million estate in the hands of shareholders.

David Jubb, chief executive, said: "We would take the view that the traditional 90/10 basis is not the right one ... that part of the estate which isn't needed for policyholders' expectations may be regarded as belonging to shareholders. I think we are moving towards that and that others may follow."

Goldman Sachs and other analysts believe that the introduction of a new accounting procedure for life offices, proposed recently by the

Insurers consider tapping bonuses



Scurfield: judgment

Association of British Insurers, will bring about further change. The new method would require all life companies to state clearly how much of the profits from the estate will be received by shareholders.

This, say analysts, will force life companies to confront the issue of ownership and increase shareholders' benefits.

With-profits investors should note that these moves are unlikely to have any immediate impact on their policies. Mutual companies are not affected and proprietary companies can only increase the money they give directly to shareholders by 0.5 per cent a year.

Analysts suggest that the biggest risks occur with the smaller offices whose with-profit policies are no longer competitive. Such companies are often tempted to close their with-profits funds to new business. In such cases they will not feel the need to do

more than the basic minimum for their policyholders.

In insurance law, the basic minimum is defined only as the "realistic expectations" of policyholders, which leaves ample scope for the company's estate to be channelled off to shareholders over time.

Larger companies that have increased their shareholders' profit ratios recently include the Prudential, Refuge Assurance and Britannia Assurance. These companies' estates are still growing and at the end of 1989, were estimated to stand at £5.9 billion, £907 million and £1.2 billion respectively.

Other big players such as Legal & General and Guardian Royal Exchange have adopted a different route and used policyholders' funds to develop new sales outlets. Goldman Sachs reports that this also weakens a company's estate while benefiting shareholders.

Senior life industry executives seem unwilling to plain their views on the question and ethics of estate ownership. Hugh Scurfield, president of the Institute of Actuaries, said that any company increasing its shareholder participation ratio should be judged, not on principle, but in its own right.

He said: "I can see circumstances when it's right — if there is extra capital coming in from shareholders and there are fewer with-profits policyholders, for example. But if it's just a case of trying to bleed the with-profits policyholders' surplus then I can see everything wrong in that."

Youssif Zai, an analyst with UBS Phillips & Drew, drew attention to an idealistic alternative. He said it had been suggested at an actuaries' that if life companies were genuinely concerned about ownership they would return the estate to the former policyholders or their relatives. It is they, after all, whose premiums gave rise to it, he added.

"The results speak for themselves," the company claims. "Our syndicates have consistently shown excellent but steady growth, without the ups and downs that the amateur investor experiences."

This though, is not the experience of dozens of investors who have been told that their money has become the subject of a legal battle between FOIS and one of its own trading advisers. One investor

according to its literature,

FOIS pools money attracted from ordinary investors. The funds are then placed under the management of one of the company's trading advisers.

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SUMMARY

Investment group holes up

INVESTORS wanting to find out more about a British investment company, which appears to have a centre of operation in Brussels, have to travel to an isolated farmhouse in West Yorkshire.

The registered office of First Overseas Investment Services can be reached down a private road and its address is not printed on road maps.

Several million pounds of clients' money is apparently missing and the commodity, futures and options firm is refusing to honour any redemption requests... Page 42

On good terms



Sophie Mirman is still on good terms with her bank, although Sock Shop, her last business venture, collapsed owing £16 million. She told Alan Hamilton of the disastrous lunch that marked the beginning of the end... Page 43

Loss of life

Shareholders could benefit at the expense of policyholders if life companies decide to pay them a higher proportion of their estates..... Page 42

Tax on subsidy

Subsidised mortgages are costing workers too much because of the way tax on the concession is calculated. The Inland Revenue insists on comparing the loans with an effective interest rate that is higher than normal... Page 41

On the draw



Ernie answers back in this week's letters page and explains what happens when the same bond number comes up twice in one draw.... Page 41

Split decision

New rules will allow banks to split the interest on joint accounts so non-taxpayers can receive interest gross. But the big four banks will not be offering this service... Page 40

Conflict of law

Concern about a possible conflict between the Financial Services Act and common law was voiced this week by the Law Commission..... Page 40

Fair shares

Free dealing in shares of the electricity companies is being offered by the Skipton Building Society. Other offers follow thick and fast..... Page 42

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Retreat into recession

Even now, the chancellor finds it hard to concede the country is in recession. But his autumn statement painted a bleak picture of Britain's prospects. When will the pain end? Can John Major conjure up the recovery the Tories need to win the general election? Analysis in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

Hunt begins for forgotten millions

Barbara Ellis reports on the research recovering unused income from thousands of long-forgotten charities

A QUIET treasure hunt is under way all over Britain, with researchers seeking out under-exploited assets and unused income belonging to thousands of charitable trusts.

The researchers say that with help to update centuries-old objectives and antiquated investment policies, the long-neglected charities could become a useful source of financial assistance to an unexpectedly wide range of people around the country.

The Charity Commission lists about 170,000 charities on its central register. In September, it began a year-long national census to check how many of those were still active, or even in existence.

But some counties are already ahead of the field. In Devon, public libraries have full lists of all the trusts within its borders, gathered in a three-year survey begun in 1987 by Bill Bailey of the Community Council.

Initially, Mr Bailey wrote to the "correspondents" or secretaries of more than 4,000 registered charities. Less than 20 per cent responded, many only to say that Mr Smith or Mrs Jones had died years previously. But research into local archives and contacts with vicars and postmasters eventually helped complete profiles of 96 per cent of the charities.

"Nobody has coal fires these days," said the trust's treasurer. "We were building up the money, so the charity commissioners said it could be for gas or electricity."

So far, the trust has given £10

towards heating bills to one pensioner and is waiting to accumulate enough income for another gift.

Efforts to impose a moral code

linger among a number of trusts.

In Witherslack, Cumbria, couples who marry in the village and stay

review to the same depth, but why should Devon be any different from, say, Yorkshire?" Mr Bailey said.

One of the aims of the review was to help the charities modernise. "A heck of a lot were supposed to be dishing out five loaves and two small fishes, but they had stopped doing that in the 1700s."

The charities' most frequent objectives, according to Mr Bailey, are education, religion, animal welfare and the relief of poverty.

Among those looking for ways to adapt was the Trapnell Trust of Clyst Honiton, Devon, where the bellringers toll a knell for Edward Trapnell every November 26, in exchange for a payment of 50p to split among as many as eight of them.

Every year since the early 1700s,

the bellringers' payment has come out of the income on a trust left by

Mr Trapnell to commemorate the day of his death and provide coal for the local poor. Originally a bequest of £5, the trust now produces an annual income of about £3.

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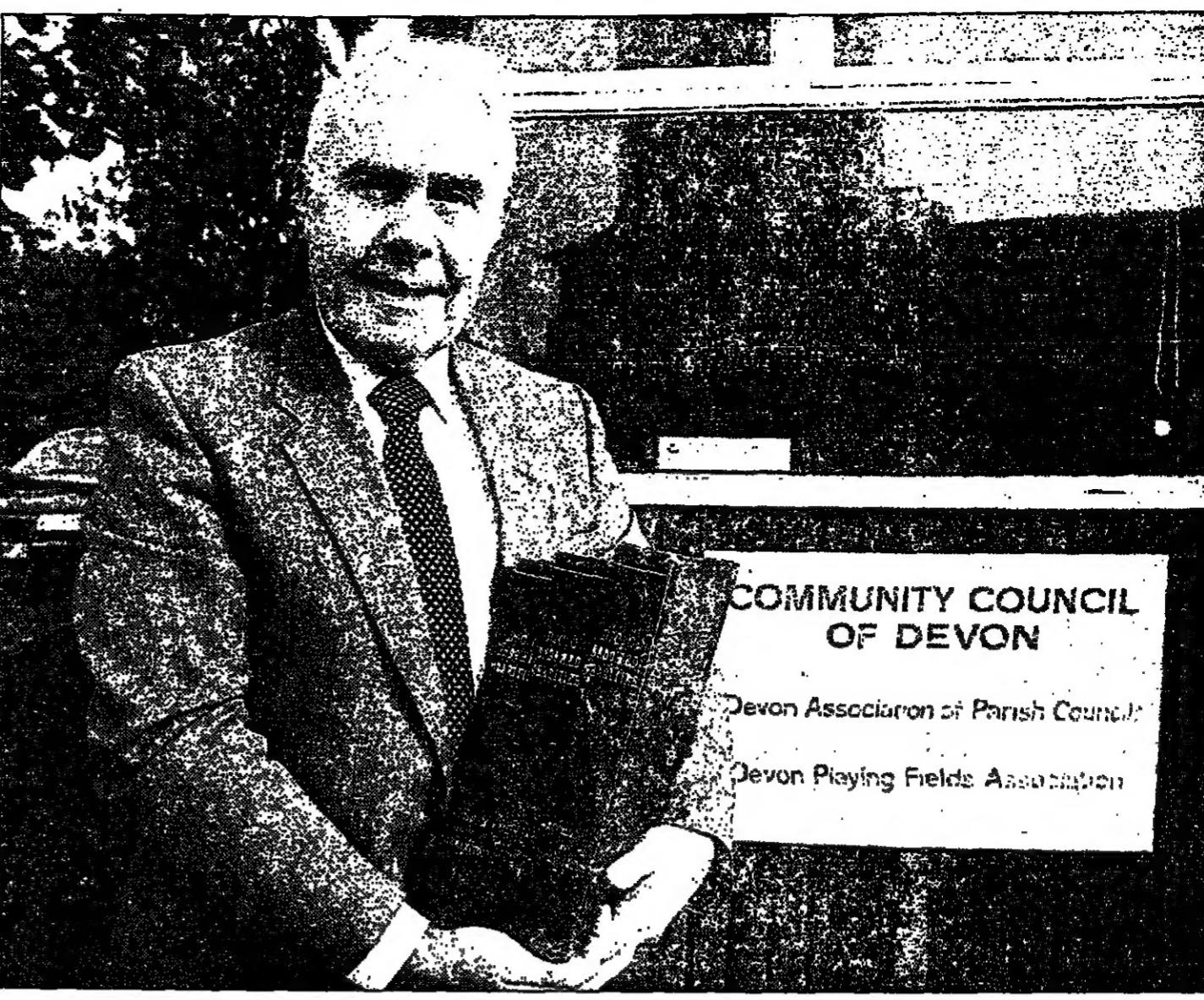
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Hidden funds: Bill Bailey, of Devon's Community Council, uncovered income of £30 million a year in charitable trusts

childless for a year can claim a "maiden's portion" of about £10 from a trust set up in 1662 under the will of Dean John Barwick, a former dean of St Paul's in London.

But there are only about three weddings a year in Witherslack and very few couples bother to

apply, according to the vicar of nearby Crosshouse, who administers the trust. Dean Barwick, whose legacy financed the building of a church and school, also left coal and Christmas allowances for people who were deemed by the clergy to be in need.

Devonians are catching on to the idea of looking to obscure charities for special finance, said Mr Bailey. He has even been asked to find a charity that could help send a Plymouth man's son to America to study guitar playing. A musical education trust was found that was able to make a grant.

"You have to start by looking for the area of benefit. If you live in Plymouth, it is no good going to a charity in Exeter," he said.

In Dorset, Jenny Hyde of the Community Council is reaching the end of a survey of the county's 1,200 charities. Total income uncovered is close to £2 million, plus nearly another £1 million in undistributed income. The annual income of the individual charities ranges from 25p to £60,000.

As in Devon, charities are being encouraged to update their aims. Trusts originally set up to provide funnel petticoats or warm cloaks for widows have been allowed to

switch their attention to heating

bills. Meanwhile, grants for apprentices have been reintroduced as finance for higher education.

Some of the richest charity finds have been in Wiltshire, according to Doug Simpson, who researched the county before moving to work on the Charity Commission census.

'A heck of a lot of charity trusts were supposed to be dishing out five loaves and two small fishes but they had stopped that in the 1700s'

An immense amount of detective work by volunteers had led to the discovery of valuable land rights, he said.

In Chippenham, the Borrowlands charity was originally established to send two members to Parliament and maintain a causeway, but was absorbed by the local

authority when central government took on both tasks. The charity, which was rediscovered in 1974, had a lengthy battle to establish the rights to £6 million worth of assets, including land.

More recently, another Wiltshire charity successfully reclaimed from the church three acres of prime development land near Swindon, after a local historian spotted its apparently lapsed charitable status.

Mr Simpson said that counties such as Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk had recognised the potential benefit to communities in tracking down charity money. Hereford, Lancashire and Worcester had also started research.

However, Kent, with more charities than any other county, had been resistant to the idea of supporting any research. Mr Simpson noted.

People thinking of applying for charity grants should not be put off by stated objectives such as "relief of the poor of the parish".

"In terms of the charity, it is all relative," said Mr Simpson. "If you live in a smart village where everyone has two Porsches and you only have one, you are relatively poorer."

Fundraising fraud warning

By SARA MCCONNELL

CHARITIES are warning people to be careful to check the credentials of fundraisers who claim to be collecting money for good causes because they do not have the time or money to monitor the collectors' activities themselves.

Charities report continuing problems with fundraisers using the names of reputable organisations to collect money from the public and then keeping some or all of the cash.

There is no central agency to check the references of collectors and any monitoring has to be done by the charities.

John Kingston, director of fundraising for the Save the Children Fund, said: "We have hundreds of people raising money as volunteers and we couldn't check them all."

There is no register and it would be impossible to keep one. So the public needs to be careful. It would be naive to expect there will never be any problems. But collecting money under false pretences is fraud."

The Charity Commission has confirmed that it has investigated complaints by a London charity that two organisations had set themselves up as fundraisers with names that gave the impression they were charities.

The commission only has limited powers of investigation and most concern registered charities.

A spokesman said that the two

organisations were not registered and so fell outside the commissioners' jurisdiction.

But he added: "People write in complaining about the activities of fundraisers, and although most of our powers are directed towards the activities of registered charities, if people go around pubs, for example, pretending to collect for charity then walking away from it, this would concern us."

Tighter controls over fundraising, which would include strengthening the commissioners' powers, were proposed in a Home Office white paper in May 1989. But these were not included in the Queen's speech this week.

The white paper spelled out the findings of a working party appointed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in 1985. The abuses disclosed included "excessive sums retained by some fundraising practitioners, claims that part of the proceeds from the sale of goods or services will go to charity when, in fact, the amount given to charity is much smaller than donors might suppose, and dubious fundraising practices carried out in a charity's name but without its knowledge or approval".

If proposals in the white paper became law, fundraisers would have to provide donors with a breakdown of how much of the net profit, gross profit or money

received would go to the named charity.

Already, fundraisers making house-to-house or street collections have to obtain permission from the local council or police, but the white paper proposes that collectors should have to apply for a licence.

Anyone collecting for charity on "private property to which the public has unrestricted access", such as a pub, would also need a licence.

But the government rejected the working party's plans to require all fundraisers to obtain the charity's written permission in advance on the grounds that it would discourage law-abiding fundraisers.

Hospitals, such as the Royal Brompton and the National Heart Hospital in London have central fundraising departments. But people also approach individual departments.

Dr Michael Rigby, director of paediatrics at the Royal Brompton, said: "People approach us because they are known to us from being treated at our hospital. A lot of small amounts of charitable donations come through these sources and about 80 per cent is from grateful patients. Every effort is made to check that bigger donors are registered charities, but perhaps we don't always check as carefully as we should. The potential for fundraising fraud is enormous."

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